



## Tens of thousands flee fast-moving Northern California fire

Smoke from the Camp Fire, burning in the Feather River Canyon near Paradise, Calif., darkens the sky as seen from Highway 99 near Marysville, Calif., Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018.

Associated Press

By **DON THOMPSON**  
**OROVILLE, Calif. (AP)**  
— Tens of thousands of people fled a fast-moving wildfire Thursday, some clutching babies and

pets as they abandoned vehicles on foot to escape fast-moving flames in an area several hours north of San Francisco. "It's a very dangerous and

very serious situation," Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea told The Associated Press. "I'm driving through fire as we speak. We're doing everything we can to get

people out of the affected areas." The blaze destroyed an unknown number of structures and injured some civilians, but the extent

of their injuries was not immediately known, said California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Capt. John Gaddie.

Continued on Page 3



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# In online ruse, fake journalists tried to hack Saudi critic

By RAPHAEL SATTER

AP Cybersecurity Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Hackers impersonating journalists tried to intercept the communications of a prominent Saudi opposition figure in Washington, The Associated Press has found. One attempt involved the fabrication of a fake BBC secretary and an elaborate television interview request; the other involved the impersonation of slain Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi to deliver a malicious link.

Media rights defenders denounced the hacking effort, which they said would make it harder for genuine reporters to do their jobs.

"It's incredibly dangerous to employ this kind of tactic," said Elodie Vialle, who heads the technology desk at Paris-based Reporters Without Borders. "The chilling effect is that people are deterred from speaking to journalists. In the end, it undermines the freedom of information."

The most involved masquerade took place in February of this year, when



In this Oct. 26, 2018, photo Ali AlAhmed poses for a photograph in his office in Washington.

Associated Press

someone posing as a BBC journalist called "Tanya Stalin" emailed Washington-based Saudi dissident Ali AlAhmed inviting him to a live broadcast about Saudi Arabia. Stalin engaged with AlAhmed over several days, sending him a list of proposed topics and talking him through the logistics of his purported television appearance.

AlAhmed said he knew from the beginning that something was up.

For starters, Stalin said her position was "Secretary to

the Editor In Chief," a title that didn't correspond to a job typically done by producers or bookers. Odder still, the message came over Gmail rather than from an official BBC address.

And then there was her eyebrow-raising last name. "The Stalin business threw me off," AlAhmed said in a recent interview. "I asked my wife, who is Russian, and she said: 'No one has this name.'"

AlAhmed was right. The BBC said it wasn't aware of anyone called "Tanya Stalin" working for the broadcaster and that the title she claimed to hold did not formally exist. An Associated Press analysis of her messages suggests the interview request was a sloppily executed trap, an attempt to get AlAhmed to click a malicious link and break into his inbox.

AlAhmed believes Saudi Arabia is behind Stalin's emails, as well as dozens of other suspicious messages he has received over the past year. One November 2017 missive purportedly came from Khashoggi, whose killing last month on the grounds of the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul has refocused international attention on the brutality of the Arab kingdom's leadership.

The Saudi Embassy in Washington did not return written questions from the AP. Washington Post Executive Editor Marty Baron said the hackers' theft of Khashoggi's identity was "contemptible."

A researcher with internet

watchdog Citizen Lab recently reviewed AlAhmed's emails and confirmed they were malicious — although he stopped short of drawing a link between the different messages or blaming anyone for the hacking campaign.

"This was a targeted operation designed to gain access to his accounts and private communications," said John Scott-Railton, whose group is based at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs. "This does appear to be closely linked to his political activities."

Some of the messages — like a prompt to install a "free security update" called "Ninja security" — were generic phishing messages of the type used by criminals and spies the world over. But many of the 40-odd malicious messages recovered from AlAhmed's inbox were closely attuned to current events in the Gulf.

Most troubling was a May 31 message dressed up to look like it came from an event photography service, complete with pictures of AlAhmed holding a microphone during a question and answer session featuring the Qatari foreign minister at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

The photos, which appear to have been pulled off a publicly available video of the event, suggest that the hackers or someone working with them had been tracking AlAhmed's whereabouts closely.

"That email was really when I felt fear," said AlAhmed, who says his work is largely self-funded. "They are actually physically here. They're looking at me."

Scott-Railton said the persistence of the hackers — and the variety of different tactics they employed to try to pry open AlAhmed's inbox — pointed to a manpower-intensive effort to compromise the Saudi gadfly.

"Over an extended period of time, humans were tasked with getting into his computer and getting

into his head," Scott-Railton said.

As a critic of Saudi Arabia's ruling family, AlAhmed has been a regular on Arabic and English-language cable news for more than a decade. He has long served Washington journalists as a source about the kingdom's problems, especially in relation to extremist propaganda in the country's school textbooks.

Saudi Arabia is a known practitioner of cyberespionage. The country was exposed as a customer of notorious Italian surveillance firm Hacking Team in 2015 and a mysterious Saudi investor has since taken a minority stake in the company, according to a Motherboard report published this year. Recent reports by Citizen Lab and human rights group Amnesty International have also documented the use of Israeli-made spy software to break into the smartphones of Saudi human rights activists, including Canada-based Omar Abdulaziz, who was working with Khashoggi on several confidential projects before the columnist was killed.

Whoever is behind the bogus Tanya Stalin persona or the fake Jamal Khashoggi emails, the messages give an idea of how the always-fraught overlap between espionage and journalism has evolved in the internet age, with government-backed hackers routinely impersonating journalists or news organizations to hunt their prey. Even the FBI has impersonated reporters to hack its targets, at one point pretending to be an AP journalist to locate a bomb threat hoaxer's computer.

Scott-Railton explained that masquerading as a journalist was a perfect way of getting someone to lower their guard and click a link or open an attachment.

"It ticks all kinds of boxes," he said. "It explains messages out of the blue and as part of communications with journalists you'd expect to receive documents, like questions in advance." □

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**CALIFORNIA FIRE****Continued from Front**

Flames were engulfing homes, utility poles were crashing down and things were exploding, said Gina Oviedo, who described a devastating scene as she evacuated the town of Paradise. Fire officials were working on a plan to rescue patients from a hospital after officials tried to evacuate them but had to turn back because of gridlocked traffic.

Honea confirmed reports that evacuees had to abandon their vehicles as they fled the scene. "We're getting them on other vehicles with room. We're working very hard to get people out. The message I want to get out is if you can evacuate, you need to evacuate," Honea said.

All of Paradise, a town of about 27,000 people 180 miles (290 kilometers) northeast of San Francisco, was ordered to evacuate, said Butte County Sheriff's spokeswoman Miranda Bowersox.

The wildfire was reported at 6:30 a.m., Rick Carhart, a Cal Fire spokesman, said. Within roughly six hours, the fire had grown to more than 26 square miles (69 square kilometers), said Gaddie.

"The blaze is being driven

by fairly strong winds," Carhart said. "It's really dry and we have low humidity — and unfortunately those are great conditions for a fire to spread."

A hospital and several schools were evacuated as thick grey smoke and ash filled the sky above Paradise and could be seen from miles away.

The Adventist Health Feather River Hospital in Paradise evacuated staff and 41 patients to other hospitals, given its close proximity to the fire, said Jill Kinney, an Adventist Health spokeswoman. She said a group of 20 other patients were initially evacuated but then returned to the facility because of gridlocked traffic.

Gaddie, the fire official, said authorities were "working on a plan" to rescue the patients.

Some of the hospital's "outbuildings," such as outpatient clinics caught fire and were damaged but the main hospital was not, said Kinney.

Four of the hospital's employees were briefly trapped in the basement and rescued by California Highway Patrol officers, Kinney said.

Shari Bernacett said her husband tried to get



The massive plume from the Camp Fire, burning in the Feather River Canyon near Paradise, Calif., wafts over the Sacramento Valley as seen from Chico, Calif., on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018.

Associated Press

people to leave the mobile home park they manage in Paradise and had minutes to evacuate.

She and her husband "knocked on doors, yelled and screamed" to alert as many of the residents of 53 mobile homes and recreational vehicles as possible, Bernacett said.

"My husband tried his best to get everybody out. The

whole hill's on fire. God help us!" Bernacett said before breaking down crying. She and her husband grabbed their dog, jumped in their pickup truck and drove through flames before getting to safety, she said. Officials were sending as many crews as they could gather, Carhart said.

"Every engine that we could put on the fire is on

the fire right now, and more are coming," he said. "There are dozens of strike teams that we're bringing in from all parts of the state."

The National Weather Service issued red flag warnings for fire dangers in many areas of the state, saying low humidity and strong winds were expected to continue through Friday evening. □

## Justice Ginsburg in hospital after fracturing 3 ribs in fall

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Eighty-five-year-old Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg fractured three ribs in a fall in her office at the court and is in the hospital, the court said Thursday.

The court's oldest justice fell Wednesday evening, the court said. She called Supreme Court police to take her to George Washington

University Hospital in Washington early Thursday after experiencing discomfort overnight, court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said. She was admitted to the hospital for treatment and observation after tests showed she fractured three ribs. In her absence, the court went ahead Thursday with a courtroom ceremony welcoming new Jus-

tice Brett Kavanaugh, who joined the court last month. President Donald Trump and new acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker were on hand. Ginsburg has had a series of health problems. She broke two ribs in a fall in 2012. She has had two prior bouts with cancer and had a stent implanted to open a blocked artery in 2014. She also was

hospitalized after a bad reaction to medicine in 2009. But she has never missed Supreme Court arguments. The court won't hear arguments again until Nov. 26. Rib fractures are common among older adults, particularly after falls. The severity depends in part on whether the ribs are cracked or broken all the way through, and how many are broken.

The extent of Ginsburg's injury was not clear.

A complete break requires making sure the two ends are in alignment, so that a sharp piece of bone doesn't puncture nearby blood vessels or organs. Broken ribs typically heal on their own in six weeks to a month, and patients are advised to limit strenuous activity. □



# Indictments? Final report? White House braces for Mueller

By **ERIC TUCKER, JONATHAN LEMIRE and CHAD DAY**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The White House is bracing for the probe of Donald Trump's presidential campaign to fire up again. Trump's advisers are privately expressing worries that the special counsel, who's been out of the news for the past month, has been stealthily compiling information and could soon issue new indictments or a damning final report.

Trump abruptly altered the chain of command above Mueller on Wednesday, putting his work under the supervision of a Republican loyalist who has been openly skeptical of the special counsel's authority and has mused about ways to curtail his power. But Trump and his aides are concerned about Mueller's next move with the work that is complete, according to a White House official and a Republican with close ties to the administration.

They insisted on anonymity to comment on conversations they were not authorized to describe.

Mueller lay low for the past month as voters were mulling their choices for this week's elections.

But a flurry of activity during his quiet period, including weeks of grand jury testimony about Trump confidant Roger Stone and negotiations over an interview with the president, hinted at public developments ahead as investigators move closer to addressing key questions underpinning the special counsel inquiry: Did Trump illegally obstruct the investigation? And did his campaign have advance knowledge of illegally hacked Democratic emails?

Trump has told confidants he remains deeply annoyed by the 18-month-old Mueller probe, believing it is not just a "witch hunt" but an expensive and lengthy negative distraction. The latest indication of the fury came Wednesday when he forced out his attorney general, Jeff Sessions, whose recusal opened the

door to Mueller's appointment.

To this point, Trump has heeded advice not to directly interfere, though a new chapter in the relationship with the probe

sociates. But the work is not done.

A clear focus concerns Stone, a longtime political dirty trickster. The special counsel's team has been investigating Stone's con-

peals court in Washington heard a challenge to Mueller's authority brought by Stone aide Andrew Miller, who defied a grand jury subpoena last summer and was held in contempt by a

immunity, have been scrutinized.

But it's unclear what additional charges prosecutors are pursuing and how much of it pertains to the president personally. Federal prosecutors have said in court papers that the case involves numerous "uncharged" third parties and have argued against disclosing search warrants and other documents that would "certainly result in a very public guessing game" about their identities.

Overseeing it all is Whitaker, a former college football player and United States attorney from Iowa who was brought into the Justice Department last year to serve as Sessions' chief of staff. In the months before, Whitaker was a familiar presence on CNN, where he questioned Mueller's scope and reach.

In one appearance, he defended a June 2016 Trump Tower meeting between Trump Jr. and a Kremlin-connected Russian lawyer, saying, "You would always take that meeting."

He also once tweeted a prosecutor's opinion piece that described the Mueller team as a "lynch mob," and wrote his own op-ed saying Mueller would be outside his authority if he investigated Trump's family finances.

Trump had enjoyed Whitaker's cable TV appearances — including one on CNN in which he suggested that the Mueller probe be starved of resources — and the two men soon struck a bond. Trump told associates that he felt that Whitaker would be "loyal" and would not have recused himself from the Russia probe as Sessions had done, according to two Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Despite demands from Democrats and ethics watchdogs that he recuse because of his past comments, Whitaker showed no signs Thursday that he intended to do so. And not everyone is convinced he needs to. □



Protestors gather in front of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018, as part of a nationwide "Protect Mueller" campaign demanding that acting U.S. Attorney General Matthew Whitaker recuse himself from overseeing the ongoing special counsel investigation.

Associated Press

may have begun with the appointment of Matthew Whitaker as new acting attorney general. Even if Whitaker, Sessions' former chief of staff, does not curtail the investigation, Trump could direct him to take a more aggressive stance in declassifying documents that could further undermine or muddle the probe, the White House aide and Republican official said.

The investigation until now has been overseen by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller last year and granted him fairly broad authority.

"It's very significant because Whitaker's position on indictments or future indictments may be different than Rosenstein's, and Rosenstein had given Mueller a broad mandate to pursue various crimes," said Washington criminal defense lawyer Jeffrey Jacobovitz.

The Mueller investigation has so far produced 32 criminal charges and four guilty pleas from Trump as-

sociation to WikiLeaks during the 2016 campaign and whether he had advance knowledge of the group's plans to release hacked material damaging to Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Stone has said he did not, but emails, Twitter messages and his own public statements show he portrayed himself as plugged into the WikiLeaks orbit. That includes implying he had inside knowledge in separate email exchanges with a Breitbart editor and Steve Bannon, the then-Trump campaign chairman, just days before WikiLeaks began releasing thousands of emails stolen from Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta.

Bannon and other Stone associates have been questioned, and multiple witnesses have appeared before the grand jury. One associate, Jerome Corsi, said in a video recording Monday that he's "been involved in a really constant basis" for two months with Mueller's investigation.

On Thursday, a federal ap-

judge.

In the president's orbit, there remains some concern about his eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., though there are no outward indications that charges are imminent, according to a Republican close to the White House not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Beyond Mueller, but also within the Justice Department's oversight, is a federal investigation into Trump's longtime legal fixer, Michael Cohen, who admitted as part of a guilty plea in August to coordinating with Trump on a hush-money scheme to silence a porn actress and an ex-Playboy model who say they had affairs with Trump. The president hasn't been charged with any wrongdoing, but federal prosecutors have said that a grand jury investigation is ongoing and it targets unspecified "others." Court papers show Trump's conduct and that of top executives at the Trump Organization, some of whom have received



# Missouri tour boat captain indicted after sinking kills 17

By MARGARET STAFFORD

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

The captain of a tourist boat that sank in southwest Missouri and killed 17 people, including nine members of an Indiana family, didn't tell passengers to put on flotation devices or prepare them to abandon ship even after waves crashed into the boat during a severe storm, according to an indictment released Thursday.

The federal indictment shows Kenneth Scott McKee faces 17 counts of misconduct, negligence or inattention to duty by a ship's officer resulting in death. The deaths occurred after the duck boat, a refurbished amphibious vessel originally used by the military during World War II, sank during a storm in July. U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison said the 51-year-old McKee also is accused of failing to properly assess the weather before and after the boat went into Table Rock Lake near Branson, a Midwestern tourist town known for country music shows and entertainment venues.

"This is the beginning, not the end, of our efforts in this matter," Garrison said during a news conference in Springfield, adding that he couldn't release specifics about the investigation.

Ripley Entertainment, the company that operated the boats and suspended the operation following the accident, didn't respond to messages from The Associated Press. McKee's attorney declined comment.

If convicted, McKee could face up to 10 years in prison for each count and a fine of \$250,000. Garrison said he expects McKee to surrender.

Tia Coleman — whose husband, three young children and five other family members died in the sinking — released a statement Thursday saying she was pleased an indictment had been filed. Coleman was among 14 people who survived the sinking.

"While nothing can ever ease the grief in my heart, I am grateful that the U.S. At-

torney's Office is fighting for justice for my family, and the other victims, and is committed to holding fully accountable all those responsible for this tragedy," Coleman said.

The other people killed included two couples from Missouri, an Illinois woman who died while saving her granddaughter's life, an Arkansas father and son, and a retired pastor who was the boat's operator on land.

Several lawsuits have been filed on behalf of victims and survivors against Ripley Entertainment and other companies involved with the manufacture and operation of the boats. Robert Mongeluzzi, an attorney representing Coleman and several others, said he's confident the federal investigation will go beyond McKee.

The U.S. Coast Guard had found probable cause that the accident resulted from McKee's "misconduct, negligence, or inattention to the duties," according to an August court filing. The U.S. attorney's office said the captain of a second duck boat that safely made it to shore during the storm acted in a "grossly negligent manner," though the court filing didn't elaborate on those findings.

A spokeswoman for Ripley Entertainment has repeatedly declined to comment on the investigation but has said the company has cooperated with authorities. On Thursday, Garrison said McKee violated conditions specified in the boat's certificate of inspection by failing to tell passengers to put on personal flotation devices and not immediately increasing speed and driving to the nearest shore, according to the indictment.

The indictment also alleges McKee allowed the boat's plastic side curtains to be lowered, which blocked the exits, and didn't instruct passengers to put on flotation devices or prepare them to abandon ship even after the bilge alarm sounded twice.

The vessel first took tourists

on a trip through Branson, which is about 170 miles (274 kilometers) northwest of Little Rock, Arkansas. The amphibious vehicle then traveled to Table Rock Lake for a short excursion on water.

Weather was calm when the vessel known as a Stretch Duck 7 began its trip on July 19, but investigators have contended that operators had ample warning that a strong storm was approaching.

The vessel's certificate of inspection issued by the Coast Guard in 2017 established rules and limitations on when it could be on the water. It states the boat "shall not be operated waterborne" when winds exceed 35 mph and/or wave heights exceed 2 feet.



Tim Garrison, right, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, speaks during a press conference on Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018 in Springfield, Mo., about the indictments against Kenneth Scott McKee, the captain of a duck boat that sank on Table Rock Lake in July, killing 17 people.

Associated Press

Garrison said McKee violated those limitations when he put the boat into the lake.

Video and audio from the boat, recovered by div-

ers, showed that the lake was calm when the boat entered the water. But the weather suddenly turned violent. Within minutes, the boat sank. □

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# Marine combat veteran kills 12 in rampage at California bar

By **KRYSTA FAURIA** and  
**JONATHAN J. COOPER**

Associated Press  
**THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.**

(AP) — Terrified patrons hurled barstools through windows to escape or threw their bodies protectively on top of friends as a Marine combat veteran killed 12 people at a country music bar in an attack that added Thousand Oaks to the tragic roster of American cities traumatized by mass shootings.

Dressed all in black with his hood pulled up, the gunman apparently took his own life as police massed at the Borderline Bar & Grill in Southern California. The motive for the attack late Wednesday night was under investigation.

The killer, Ian David Long,



An honor guard salutes the body of Ventura County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Ron Helus before it departs the Los Robles Regional Medical Center Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018, in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Associated Press

28, was a former machine gunner and Afghanistan war veteran who was interviewed by police at his home last spring after an episode of agitated behavior that authorities were

told might be post-traumatic stress disorder. Opening fire with a handgun with an illegal, extra-large magazine, Long shot a security guard outside and then went in and took aim at employees and patrons, authorities said. He also used a smoke bomb, according to a law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Survivors of the rampage — mostly young people who had gone out for college night at the Borderline, a hangout popular with students from nearby California Lutheran University — seemed to know what to do, having come of age in an era of active-shooter drills and deadly rampages happening with terrifying frequency.

Several of the survivors said they were also at the outdoor country music festival in Las Vegas last year when a gunman in a high-rise hotel killed 58 people.

Many of the hundreds of patrons dived under tables, ran for the exits, broke through windows or hid in the attic and bathrooms, authorities and witnesses said.

"Unfortunately our young people, people at nightclubs, have learned that this may happen, and they think about that," Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean said. "Fortunately it helped save a lot of lives that they fled the scene so rapidly."

Matt Wennerstrom said he pulled people behind a pool table, and he and friends shielded women with their bodies after hearing the shots. When the gunman paused to reload, Wennerstrom said, he used a barstool to shatter a window and then helped about 30 people escape. He heard another volley of shots after they got out.

"All I wanted to do was get as many people out of there as possible," he told KABC-TV. "I know where I'm going if I die, so I was not worried."

The dead included a veteran sheriff's deputy who rushed in to confront the gunman, as well as 22-year-old man who planned to join the Army, a freshman at nearby Pepperdine University and a recent Cal Lutheran graduate.

"It's a horrific scene in there," Dean said in the parking lot. "There's blood everywhere." The tragedy left a community that is annually listed as one of the safest cities in America reeling. Scores of people showed up to donate blood for the wounded. All morning, people looking for missing friends and relatives arrived at a community center where authorities and counselors were informing the next-of-kin of those who died. Many walked past TV cameras with blank stares or tears in their eyes. In the parking lot, people comforted each other with hugs or a pat on the back.

Jason Coffman received the news that his son Cody,

22, who was about to join the Army, was dead. Coffman broke down as he told reporters how his last words to his son as he went out that night were not to drink and drive and that he loved him.

"Oh, Cody, I love you, son," Coffman sobbed.

It was the nation's deadliest such attack since 17 students and teachers were killed at a Parkland, Florida, high school nine months ago. It also came less than two weeks after a gunman massacred 11 people at a synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Democratic Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom, in his first public appearance since winning office on Tuesday, lamented the violence that has come again to California.

"It's a gun culture," he said. "You can't go to a bar or nightclub? You can't go to church or synagogue? It's insane is the only way to describe it. The normalization, that's the only way I can describe it. It's become normalized."

President Donald Trump praised police for their "great bravery" in the attack and ordered flags flown at half-staff in honor of the victims.

Authorities converged on Long's home in Newbury Park, about 5 miles from the Borderline bar, in a search for clues to what set him off. "There's no indication that he targeted the employees. We haven't found any correlation," the sheriff said. "Maybe there was a motive for this particular night, but we have no information leading to that at all."

Long was in the Marines from 2008 to 2013, rose to the rank of corporal and served in Afghanistan in 2010-11 before he was honorably discharged, the military said. □

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## Court urged to end rule that erased Hernandez's conviction

By ALANNA DURKIN RICH-ER, Associated Press  
BOSTON (AP) — A legal principle that erased former New England Patriot's player Aaron Hernandez's murder conviction after he killed himself in prison is outdated, unfair and should not stand, a Massachusetts prosecutor told the state's highest court Thursday. Bristol County District Attorney Thomas Quinn III said it doesn't make sense the former New England Patriots tight end is now innocent in the eyes of the law just because he died before his appeal could be heard. Quinn is urging the court to reinstate Hernandez's conviction and do away with the legal principle for future cases.

"He goes through a full trial, a jury who speaks for the public convicts him and because he dies, in this case commits suicide, the whole thing is wiped out like it never happened? It's not fair or just and should be changed," Quinn told reporters after the hearing. Hernandez was found guilty in 2015 of killing semi-professional football player Odin Lloyd. Two years later, the 27-year-old was found dead in his prison cell days after being acquitted of most charges in a separate double-murder case.

A judge threw out Hernandez's conviction last year, citing the legal principle that holds that a defendant convicted at trial who dies before an appeal is heard should no longer be considered guilty in the eyes of the law, thereby returning the case to its pre-trial status.

Legal experts say the doctrine, rooted in centuries of English law, requires a conviction not be considered final until an appeal can determine whether mistakes were made that deprived the defendant of a fair trial. □

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# Italy's budget row with EU escalates ahead of deadline

By COLLEEN BARRY  
PAN PYLAS

**MILAN (AP)** — The Italian government insisted Thursday it is sticking with its plan to rapidly increase public spending as a dispute with the European Union over the budget intensified following a gloomy set of forecasts.

In response to the EU's executive Commission's prediction that Italy will be the slowest-growing economy in the 19-country eurozone through 2020, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said his government had no intention of revising its plans by next week, as Brussels had requested.

"The Commission growth forecast for next year underestimates the positive impact of our economic maneuver and our structural reforms," he said. "We are going ahead with our estimates on the public finances, with growth that will increase and debt and deficit that will decrease." The worry in Brussels and in financial markets, where interest rates on Italian bonds have spiked sharply, is that



European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs Pierre Moscovici presents the Autumn 2018 economic forecast at EU headquarters in Brussels, Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018.

Associated Press

the budget plans would prevent the country's huge debt burden from falling, as promised.

And that could raise renewed questions about the future of the euro. Italy's public debt burden stands at around 130 percent of the annual GDP, second in the eurozone behind Greece, which only

emerged from its eight-year bailout era in the summer.

The Commission said it expects the Italian economy, the eurozone's third-largest, to grow by only 1.2 percent in 2019, below the 1.5 percent projected by the government. And in 2020, the Commission forecasts Italian growth of only 1.3 per-

cent, again 0.3 percentage point-lower than the projection from Rome.

As a result, the Commission expects higher budget deficits for Italy, notably for next year. Rather than the 2.4 percent of GDP predicted by Italy, the Commission expects 2.9 percent, a level that would not bring down Italy's overall debt stock.

"There are no grounds for questioning the foundation and sustainability of our forecasts," said Conte, adding that Italy expects the debt load to decrease to 126.7 percent of GDP by 2021. The Commission doesn't appear to be in a mood to haggle.

"There cannot be a sort of negotiation on this," said Pierre Moscovici, the commissioner responsible for economic matters.

Countries that use the euro have to seek approval from the Commission for their budgets as part of a coordination exercise designed to prevent a repeat of the debt crisis that afflicted the region over the past decade. The Commission could sanctions Italy if it does not revise its plans by Tuesday.

The Italian government argues that the economy needs a stimulus so it can turn around after stagnating for years. Boosting growth, it argues, will help control debt levels and eventually solidify the country's place within the single currency bloc. □

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## Gorbachev calls for preventing new arms race

Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Thursday that urgent efforts must be taken to prevent a new arms race.

Gorbachev, 87, told reporters that Moscow and Washington should focus on mending their rift and improving their relationship, one he described as the most important in the world.

Gorbachev said "I hope that the arms race could be stopped and we could continue the nuclear disarmament" that he and U.S. President Ronald Reagan initiated.

He was speaking after attending the Moscow premier of a film made by Werner Herzog based on their conversations.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced last month

that he intends to pull out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty that Gorbachev and Reagan signed in 1987 over alleged Russian violations.

Gorbachev, who took the helm in 1985 and stepped down on Christmas Day 1991 as the Soviet Union broke up, has won broad international acclaim for his role in helping end the Cold War.

But he has been frequently criticized at home where many held him responsible for the Soviet demise and the misery and political turmoil that followed.

In a separate statement issued Thursday, Gorbachev voiced concern about "attempts to take the world back into the past," warning that a new twist of the arms race poses the greatest danger. □



# Interpol: Rules forbid probe of ex-president's fate in China

LYON, France (AP) — Interpol's secretary general said Thursday that the international police organization's rules forbid him from probing into the fate of the Chinese government official who served as Interpol president for almost two years before he vanished during a trip to China. In his first public remarks about the disappearance of Meng Hongwei, Interpol Secretary General Juer-gen Stock said he "encouraged" Chinese authorities to provide information about Meng's location and legal status but can do no more.

Meng became Interpol's president in November 2016. A new president will be elected to replace him during the organization's general assembly in Dubai on Nov. 18-21.

Chinese authorities said they detained Meng, 64, on bribery charges, though his wife has described him



Interpol Secretary General Juer-gen Stock poses at the international police agency in Lyon, central France, Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018

Associated Press

as a victim of political persecution. He was China's vice minister of public security and appears to be the latest ranking Chinese official to have been caught

in a sweeping purge under President Xi Jinping. Stock said his organization learned of Meng's disappearance on Oct. 5 via media reports that came

out after Meng's wife said she had not heard from him since the end of September and reported him missing. Interpol contacted Beijing,

asking for clarification, according to Stock. A high-level Chinese delegation arrived at Interpol's Lyon headquarters on Oct. 7, reported that Meng had written a resignation letter and advised that he was no longer a delegate from China to Interpol — meaning he could no longer serve as president.

China's Interpol office transmitted the resignation letter to Interpol headquarters later that day. Pressed on whether Interpol had assurances Meng actually wrote it or did so without duress, Stock hedged.

"There was no reason for me to (suspect) that anything was forced or wrong," he said.

Interpol appeared to accept the Chinese delegation's explanation at face value and publicly announced that night that Meng had stepped down, without commenting on why or what happened. □





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# Woman freed in blasphemy case still in hiding in Pakistan

By KATHY GANNON

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** — A week after Pakistan's Supreme Court acquitted her of blasphemy, a Christian woman who had been on death row for eight years was freed from detention Thursday, but her whereabouts are a closely guarded secret following demands by extremists that she be hanged in public.

The case of Asia Bibi has become a political minefield for Prime Minister Imran Khan. He is trying to placate the Muslim extremists who have threatened to topple his government, while keeping the 54-year-old mother of five safe from a lynch mob and also finding a way to allow her to leave Pakistan without bringing rioters into the streets.

Bibi has been offered asylum by the European Parliament, which championed her case after she was convicted in 2010 under Pakistan's harsh blasphemy law. There has been sharp worldwide criticism of the law, which remains popular in the Muslim majority country and carries the death penalty for insulting Islam but also has been used as a way to settle scores and pressure minorities.

Bibi was with her family under heavy security after being transferred to the Pakistani capital overnight from her detention facility in southern Punjab, triggering expectations of an imminent departure from the country.

For the moment, Bibi remained in Pakistan, according to two people close to her who spoke on condition of anonymity so as not to endanger her. That was confirmed later Thursday by Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry. Following her Oct. 31 acquittal by Pakistan's Supreme Court, the hard-line Tehreek-e-Labbaik Party forced a nationwide shutdown as its supporters filled the streets for three days to protest the ruling. The rallies only dispersed after Khan's government promised that a court would review a motion to challenge the ac-



Ashraf Asim Jalali, leader of Pakistani Tehreek-e-Labbaik religious Party addresses a news conference with others regarding the acquittal of Christian woman Asia Bibi, in Lahore, Pakistan, Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018.

Associated Press

quittal and deny Bibi permission to leave Pakistan. Khan, who came to power after elections last summer in part on an Islamist agenda, was immediately accused by critics of giving in to the extremists.

Bibi's release, high-security transfer to Islamabad and her likely departure raised the possibility that Khan's promises to the Islamists could have been an effort to buy time. The government, however, has not openly declared that Bibi was free to leave.

Tehreek-e-Labbaik, in a video message that was circulated widely Thursday, said it received government assurances following Bibi's relocation to Islamabad that she wouldn't leave the country until the review petition was heard.

Khan, a former cricket star and playboy who has embraced religious conservatism before he ran for prime minister, is hamstrung by contradictions within his own government, according to Zahid Hussain, who has written two books on the rise of militancy in Pakistan.

"There are some within the party, senior members of the party, who are pampering religious extremists for the sake of votes, and some believe in the same

kind of world view," Hussain said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Bibi's ordeal began on a blistering hot day in 2009 when she went to fetch water for herself and fellow farmworkers. An argument took place after two women refused to drink from the same container as Bibi, who is Roman Catholic.

The two women later said Bibi had insulted the Prophet Muhammad, and she was charged with blasphemy. She was put on trial, convicted and sentenced to death in 2010.

While her conviction was appealed, her case gained worldwide attention and focused international criticism on the blasphemy law. In announcing her acquittal last week, a three-judge panel of the Supreme Court upheld the law itself but said prosecutors had failed to prove Bibi had violated it.

European Parliament President Antonio Tajani invited Bibi and her family to Europe. In a letter, a copy of which was seen by the AP, Tajani told Bibi's husband Ashiq Masih that the parliament is "extremely concerned for your safety as well as your family's, due to the violence by extremist elements in Pakistan."

The letter added to ex-

pectations that she and her family would leave for Europe, though their destination has not been confirmed. Spain and France have offered her asylum. Speaking to the AP earlier this week in the Punjab capital of Lahore, Masih said he hasn't slept much since his wife's acquittal and the subsequent outrage by extremists. His initial joy quickly turned to sadness when he realized the ordeal was not over. He said that he is consumed by fear every time his phone rings and haunted by the shouts of "Hang her!"

"Sometimes I pace on the rooftop, sometimes I walk on the road outside our home," he said. "I look at the faces around me and I wonder if anyone is waiting to hurt us."

Even the mere suggestion of blasphemy can whip mobs into a lynching frenzy in Pakistan. In 2011, the governor of Punjab province was killed by his own guard after he defended Bibi and criticized the blasphemy law. A year later, Shahbaz Bhatti, the minister for minorities and a Christian, was shot and killed.

For Bibi's husband, leaving Pakistan is painful but remains a matter of life and death.

"We have no other choice but to leave," he said. "I love Pakistan but I can't live here."

Even in Bibi's home village of Aitta Wali — an impoverished farming community where animals and residents share tiny, sunbaked mud houses — there is still outrage over her acquittal, and its remaining three Christian families have fled. "Our entire village swore on the Quran that she insulted the prophet but no one believes us and everyone believes her," said Aman Ali, one of the villagers. "Before this, we liked the Christian families. We always got along. But now there is only anger."

Some of that anger was directed at a visiting AP reporter, who was told by one resident: "Go. Just get out. Go."

Muhammad Afzal Qadri, a leader in the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Party and a religious scholar, said he doesn't regret calling for the deaths of the three judges who acquitted Bibi, or for calling on his followers to overthrow Khan's government.

At his sprawling madrassa in the Punjab city of Gujrat, Qadri told the AP this week that he had the religious authority to declare a fatwa, or edict, demanding the judges be killed.

Pakistan is bound by Islamic injunctions, he said, adding that he was qualified to decide such matters. The West only seeks to undermine Pakistan's Islamic traditions and culture, Qadri said.

Hussain, the author on Pakistani militancy, said the demonstrations over Bibi's acquittal were an attempt to regain positions the extremists had lost in the July elections.

Another rally Thursday in the southern city of Karachi drew thousands. One religious leader, Fazlur Rehman, whose party was routed in the elections, said the "court of the masses" has rejected Bibi's acquittal.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban insurgent group warned anyone who would commit blasphemy that "our daggers will cut your throat." □



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## Bangladesh to hold elections Dec. 23 despite Zia's arrest

By JULHAS ALAM

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)

— Bangladesh's Election Commission announced Thursday that the next national election will be held Dec. 23, despite the imprisonment of the leader of the main opposition party and the banning of its chief partner.

Chief Election Commissioner K.M. Nurul Huda said in a televised address that all arrangements have been made to ensure the election will be peaceful. Candidates must file their applications on Nov. 19.

Huda said all political parties would receive an equal opportunity and urged all to contest the election.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



In this Dec. 28, 2017 file photo, Bangladesh's former prime minister and opposition leader Khaleda Zia, center, leaves after a court appearance in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Associated Press

will head an election-time government as provided for in the constitution. The opposition has demanded an independent caretaker administration, saying the

election could be rigged under Hasina.

Hasina's arch rival, former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, is in jail on corruption charges. It is uncertain whether

her Bangladesh Nationalist Party will participate in the polls. The party and its partners boycotted the last election in 2014, when Hasina returned to power with a commanding majority.

Zia, 73, has been in jail since February, when she was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for alleged corruption in the establishment of an orphanage fund during her first term as prime minister in 1991-1996. Following an appeal, the High Court extended her sentence to 10 years.

In a second case, a trial court last month sentenced Zia to seven years in jail on corruption charges linked to a charity fund named after her late husband.

Zia's party says both cases

are politically motivated.

Also last month, the Election Commission canceled the political registration of Jamaat-e-Islami, the main partner of Zia's party, which prevents it from contesting the election. The court said the party's registration violated election laws and the spirit of the constitution because the party had opposed the country's war of independence with Pakistan in 1971. The party is a fierce opponent of Hasina and is eager to regain its strength after the executions of its top leaders on charges of war crimes during the conflict.

The polls would be Bangladesh's 11th general election since it gained independence in the war. □

## Toxic smog cloaks New Delhi morning after Diwali festivities

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP)

— Toxic smog shrouded the Indian capital as air quality plummeted to hazardous levels Thursday after tens of thousands of people set off a multitude of firecrackers to celebrate the major Hindu festival of Diwali.

With schools closed for holidays, many young children stayed indoors to escape the pollution levels in New Delhi that shot up to 681, as reported by the U.S. Embassy Thursday morning from 200 a day earlier. That measurement of small particulate matter in the air is 20 times higher than what's considered safe by the World Health Organization and could seriously aggravate heart or lung diseases.

The government blamed the toxic stew on a combination of burning of stubble in agricultural fields and firecrackers. The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology said an increasing surface wind speed is expected to disperse pollutants in two to three days.

Many revelers flouted the Supreme Court order that firecrackers could be exploded only between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Wednesday. It also said that only less polluting firecrackers could be made and sold.

Rias Ahmed, an auto rickshaw driver, said it was highly unlikely that air pollution was going to decrease in and around the Indian capital.

"I have been driving an



Indian workers are seen in the morning smog as they clean a lane littered with remains of firecrackers set off Wednesday night in Greater Noida, near New Delhi, India, Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018.

Associated Press

auto rickshaw since 1994, for 24 or 25 years, and it has been very difficult due to the high pollution. Sometimes when we clean our

nose, it's all black. When we spit or cough, that's all black. This is a problem."

Mohammad Shahid Raza, a young student, said peo-

ple let off firecrackers until 1 a.m. Thursday in a south Delhi neighborhood where he lived. "It was very noisy, and on top of that the pollution level was so high, that when I went outside my house to buy some water, I could see dark clouds, and everything was completely dark. This is not good."

Authorities this week tried to reduce dust by sprinkling water in many neighborhoods and ordering builders to cover construction sites. Coal-based power stations in the Indian capital region have been shut down.

The transport department was checking buses entering the region for valid emission papers and threatening to punish violators. □



# Gruesome find leaves Venezuelan veterinary students in tears

By SCOTT SMITH

**MARACAY, Venezuela (AP)**

— Rafael Toro, a student at Venezuela's top veterinary school, suspected something was amiss when a beloved horse called Miss Congeniality didn't greet him at the fence one recent morning along with others in the campus' small herd.

The bright-eyed, bay-colored mare had earned her nickname for helping disabled students overcome their fear of riding horses. They say she was smart and even trotted up when you called her name.

To his shock, Toro discovered the horse's skin and dismembered bones hidden among trees in the corner pasture of the sprawling campus in the central Venezuelan city of Maracay. Thieves overnight had hopped the fence, slaughtered the horse and made off with her meat — either to sell or to feed their hungry families.

"I burst into tears," said Toro, who delivered the grim news to other students. "We came here, and together we all cried."

The slaughter isn't an isolated incident. Across Venezuela, as the once-wealthy oil nation's economy collapses and sky-high inflation leaves residents struggling to afford scarce food, crimes of hunger and desperation are soaring.

Ranchers across the country complain their livestock



In this Oct 26, 2018 photo, Rafael Toro, a student at Venezuela's top veterinary school points with a machete the skeleton of a horse called Miss Congeniality, at Central University of Venezuela in Maracay, Venezuela.

Associated Press

herds are meeting the same fate. There are media reports of small groups of men caught smuggling stolen horse meat — accompanied by gory pictures of dismembered horses.

Professors on campus at Central University of Venezuela in Maracay complain that thieves have walked off with air conditioners and electrical wires, forcing them to teach in dark classrooms with sweat run-

ning down their backs.

But in a new low, bandits have turned their attention to slaughtering horses and cattle vital to training the South American nation's next generation of veterinarians.

The meat from a full-grown horse could fetch roughly \$1,400 at market, based on the equivalent prices of Venezuelan beef, making it a lucrative venture in a country where a worker's

monthly minimum wage is under \$10 at the widely-used black market rate.

Months before Miss Congeniality's demise, crooks slaughtered two horses donated to the university and that were temporarily quarantined at a nearby pasture, Toro said. Since late 2016, seven cows — including a prized bull at the center of the school's breeding program — have fallen prey to overnight bandits

sneaking onto campus.

"A loss like that is pretty expensive," said professor Daniel Vargas, who oversees the university's cattle program.

Venezuelans have traditionally been repulsed by the thought of eating horse meat, making recent developments here especially puzzling, say professors, who suspect customers are buying horse meat at their local butcher thinking it is beef.

The faculty reports each case, but police have yet to arrest any suspects. The school's budget has been frozen for over a decade, leading security guards to walk off the job and leave the campus an open target, university officials said.

"It could be an inside job, or someone from outside," said Isis Vivas, dean of the veterinary school. "Anything is possible."

Toro, a lifelong animal lover who plans to graduate next year, believes Miss Congeniality was singled out from the small herd of five horses. She was four years old, plump and in the prime of life. Amid the tragic loss, he safeguards her skull so future generations of students can continue to learn from her, such as gauging a horse's age by examining the teeth.

"We would have liked for her to stick around here with us and leave us her offspring," Toro said. "Sadly, this is not the case." □



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#### 1. Trampolin pa Trabou

Trampolin pa Trabao meaning Trampolin to Work, is a foundation where people with disabilities are trained to later actively participate in the labor force of our society. Trampolin pa Trabao wants to contribute to a better environment, to encourage understanding and respect for others, regardless of their limitations. By working at Trampolin pa Trabao, people with a disability gain work experience and develop their social and cognitive skills. What's most important is that everyone has a lot of fun and can discover their own value and talents.

Facebook: Trampolin pa Trabao



#### 2. FAVI Aruba

Fundacion Arubano di esnan Visualmente Incapacita (FAVI) helps and guides the visually impaired and the blind, with the purpose to contribute to their happiness and where desired and possible to their personal development and integration. With happiness they mean; that they are taken out of isolation; that they can enjoy their lives; that they have social interaction; that life is worth living.

Facebook: FAVI



#### 3. Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation

The Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation (HCLF) is a Non-Profit educational foundation that assists young people in becoming consciously aware, high-integrity and heart-centered leaders! They are dedicated to assisting and empowering schools, youth-serving organizations, teachers, and parents to better serve our world's youth and prepare them to lead healthy, fulfilling and successful lives. HCLF offers programs that assist young people in becoming high-achievers, and promotes healthy relationships at home and in the community. HCLF works to prevent destructive social behavior such as substance abuse and crime. HCLF was inspired by the principles of EduCare Foundation.

Facebook: Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation.



Continued from Page 13

**The Foundations:**



**5. Fundacion Muchila Creativo**

Fundacion Muchila Creativo meaning Creative Backpack, is a foundation that works in the social, cultural, artistic, creative and therapeutic field. It is with great pleasure that Fundacion Muchila Creativo wants to motivate children, youth and adolescents to express themselves in the fields of music, dance, visual arts, drama and arts as a whole. They also want to expand their creative horizon by means of literature and multimedia. FMC want to achieve this by means of courses, lectures, presentations, workshops, seminars and expositions. Facebook: Muchila Creativo Aruba



**4. Tienda di Educacion**

Tienda di Educacion meaning Parenting Center, is for parents that had nowhere to turn with questions. The only option was a formal referral from the GP to the child/adolescent psychiatrist, but by then it was actually too late. The Tienda di Education's Parenting Centre provides the solution. The website provides parents with all kinds of information about difficult situations, and parents can also call the free hotline for personal advice, or meet with an advisor. The Parenting Centre also appears on TV once a month with regard to a parenting issue. By giving talks and presentations, hanging up posters, and advertising on radio and TV, the Parenting Centre is able to impart the importance of good parenting on an increasing number of people.

Facebook: Tienda di Educacion

# Travel Tips

**Aeropuerto Internacional  
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1. When checking-in, you will always need your valid passport, along with your ticket, e-ticket receipt or e-ticket confirmation. For some countries a Visa is also required.
2. For all US-bound departures, check-in three hours before your scheduled departure time.
3. For all US-bound flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the left side of building; follow the signs and head towards local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates. Aruba Airport provides full US Pre-Clearance service.
4. For all Non US departures, check-in may vary between airlines and destinations; always consult your airline for more information. Being at the airport 3 hours before your departure flight is always safe.
5. For all Non US flights, after check-in, leave building through the exit on the right side of building; follow the signs and head towards Local immigrations, main security screening, shopping area and the departure gates.
6. If traveling with a carry-on, there are restrictions on liquids, gels and aerosols you can carry in your carry-on luggage. Always check with your airline on limitations.
7. Always check the weight limit of your baggage; excess weight may result in penalty fees.
8. Always label your bags and suitcases with your name, address and phone number.
9. Always leave all carry-on items unlocked while passing through screening points to not cause delays if these need to be inspected.
10. Avoid wearing big belt buckles, clothing with metal buttons, lots of jewelry etc. when traveling. If you have these on, remove all metal items and place these in a tray for screening. It is advisable to put all metal items in your carry-on luggage until you clear security. This will help speed up the process.
11. Remove shoes at checkpoint and place in tray for x-ray machine screening.
12. All electronic items should be placed in tray outside their case for x-ray screening.
13. Avoid packing foods and beverages in your check-in baggage. When traveling to the US, you have to comply with the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information <https://www.usda.gov/>.
14. If traveling with medication, please pack these in your carry-on luggage in their original packaging.
15. If you medical documentation, present this to the security checkpoint screener to inform them. The documentation is not required and will not exempt you from the screening process.
16. Take note of inadmissible items such as sharp objects, sporting goods, guns and firearms, martial arts and self-defense items, tools, explosive materials, flammable items, disabling chemicals and other items when traveling. More information available on [www.airportaruba.com](http://www.airportaruba.com).



**6. Fundacion Centro Famia Piedra Plat**

Foundation established on April 22, 2008 by Adriaan Berg and Dr. Maikel Kelly with its purpose to promote social, physical and educational development and talents of persons of all ages (children, adolescents and adults). Purpose: 1. The establishment of a community based on Christian values in Piedra Plat in Aruba to promote the mental, physical and social development in the broadest sense of the term, of people of all age groups (such as children, adolescents and adults); and 2. The promotion of the family as the cornerstone of society.

Facebook: Fundacion Centro Famia Piedra Plat



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## A special honoring at Linear Park



ORANJESTAD —Recently, Darline de Cuba of Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to give a special honoring at Linear Park in memory of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors.

The honorees are Mr. Darrel Clark from Kennebunk, Maine. Clark came to Aruba 15 years ago with his, now deceased wife, Carrie Fell, and felt in love immediately with the island. They have been coming to Aruba for 28 times. Fell passed away in June 2017. Clark wanted to honor the memory of his wife on her beloved island and here for donated a granite bench with her name engraved on it. It has been placed in Linear

Park. With the help of Clifford Faldman he was able to accomplish this.

Darline presented the certificate to Clark and handed over some presents, and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his vacation destination and home away from home for so many years.

R.I.P. Carrie, you hold a special place in the heart of the Aruba. ☐





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## Take Away the PRESSure



**PALM BEACH —** The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba appreciates a good relationship with the local press and that was expressed Wednesday during a get-to-gather in their wonderful Spa.

General Manager Steven Redkoles, Communications Manager Yahira Santoni, Hotel Manager Louella Brezovar-van Veen, Spa Manager Eric Abdul, Casino Marketing Manager Joanna Maya (all from left to right in the below pic-

ture) and Marketing Coordinator Julika Thijsen (not in the picture) welcomed the members of the media.

Connecting and relaxing are the right words to refer to the event where two massage specialists stood ready to give away a chair massage. Further pleasure was offered by a tasteful buffet with heavenly bites and wonderful sweets.

All of this happening in the part of the hotel where unwind is the key word: the Spa. The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba Spa has a wide menu of massages, body treatments and beauty concepts.

They are daily opened from 9am to 6pm and you can take your pick at their websites menu or have yourself advised by their skilled staff. Go and feel welcomed at this sanctuary of release. Pamper yourself! Manager Abdul for sure welcomes you with a warm smile and good care. □



## Ebook release: "LA Guardiania: Of The Full Moon" by X.E. Wittlemeare

**ORANJESTAD—** Locally owned company Myriad Sources Group announced the release of a new eBook called "LA Guardiania: Of The Full Moon" written by X.E. Wittlemeare.

The book can be found online on Amazon Kindle. You can download the eBook via your iPad, laptop, PC and all other ebook readers. The hardcover will be also be available, but will be printed upon demand. There will also be discounts and coupons available soon but the issue date will be announced in the future.

### The Author X.E. Wittlemeare

X. E. Wittlemeare is an author that is inspired by the facts and happenings in his life and those around him, he is also inspired by his imagination, sometimes even from those around him. He writes both fiction and non-fiction stories. It started when he was a child, he loved reading books, watching movies and any other kinds of entertainment and writing short stories. It became a hobby and grew to his assion.

Those that know him, know they could find him in the library, theaters or online always watching or reading something. Then he started writing, and loved every minute of it, and here we have his original first published work, "LA Guardiania: Of The Full Moon."

### About "LA Guardiania: Of The Full Moon"

It's a tale of a female vampire, who was a witch before she was turned by the vampire that raised her. Ever since she was turned, she's looked after her descendants, and guarded the world we live in from her kind. Some say the world is divided in three parts: one, the world of light, where humans live; the second, the world of shadows, where we'll find the illicit dealings like drugs and prostitution. And last but not least, her world; the world of darkness, the world of creatures of the night roam. This is a story about her battles, her struggles in the eternal life. This is the story of Jardynia, La Guardiania.

For more information check out the book on Amazon. □





# SPORTS



## Government Olympic funds not usable for abuse probes

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

**DENVER (AP)** — A growing sex-abuse problem in Olympic sports has led to a steady stream of Congressional hearings and a three-year grant worth \$2.2 million.

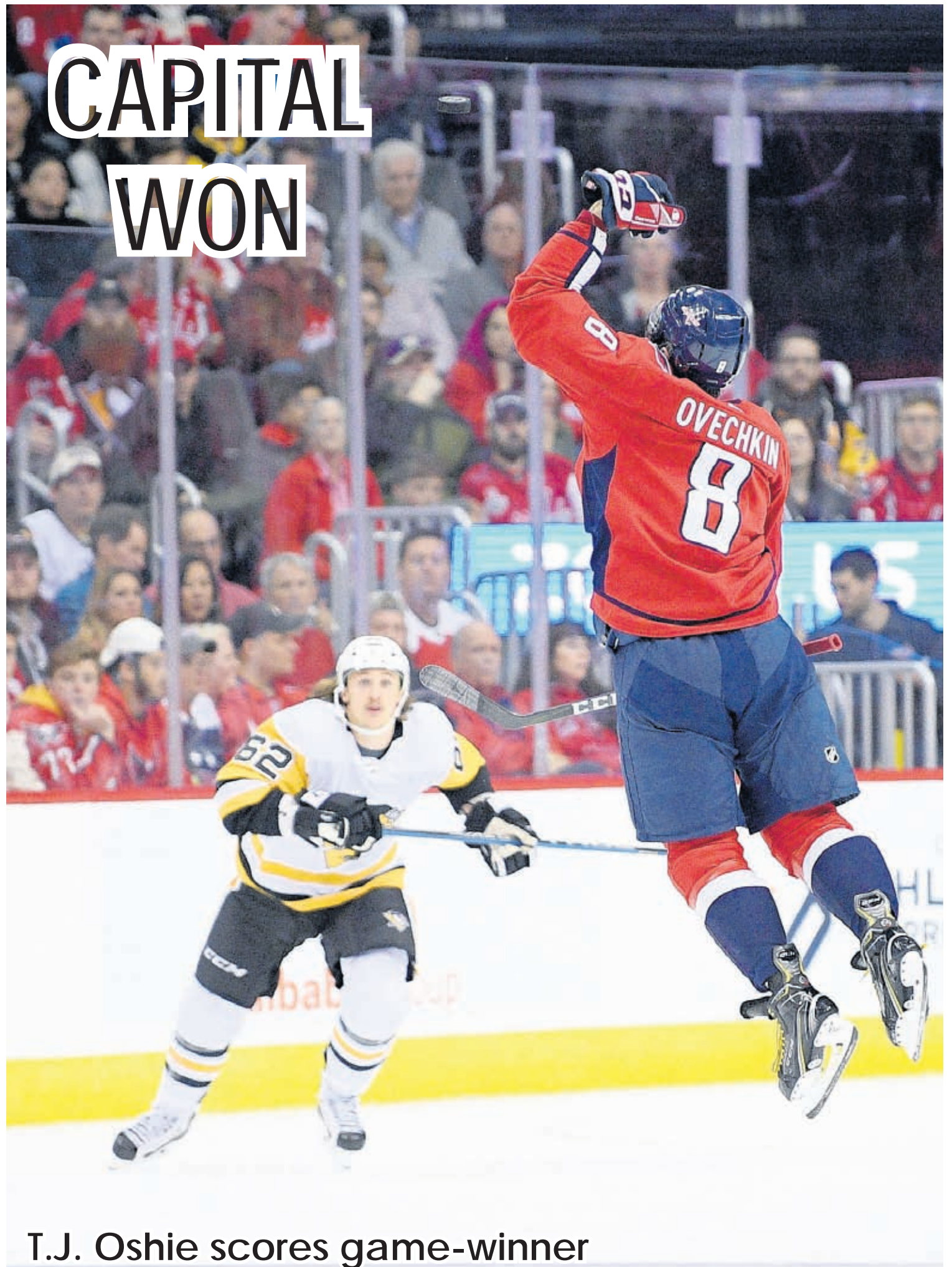
Yet not a penny of those federal funds can be used to fight the actual problem: investigating or resolving more than 800 open cases, many brought by victims themselves.

That leaves an ever-growing backlog for the U.S. Center for SafeSport, the organization that opened 20 months ago to investigate sex-abuse complaints in Olympic sports.

"We didn't realize until the (bid instructions for the grant) came out that we would not be able to use it for performing investigations," said SafeSport CEO Shellie Pfohl. "Clearly, that is a need, and we are continuing to look for more robust funding, both from government sources, as well as from outside of government."

SafeSport's mission is to investigate cases and serve as an independent clearinghouse for educating about abuse, with the authority to ban athletes and coaches across organizations that run Olympic sports in the United States. It is backed by the U.S. Olympic Committee, which took steps to decertify USA Gymnastics this week for botching an organizational rebuild following the sexual abuse scandal involving now-imprisoned team doctor Larry Nassar.

Continued on Page 19



## T.J. Oshie scores game-winner for Capitals to beat Penguins

Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8), of Russia, leaps up for the puck as Pittsburgh Penguins left wing Carl Hagelin (62) watches during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018, in Washington.

Associated Press  
Page 20



# Soon-to-be-retired Bellew eyes perfect farewell against Usyk

By STEVE DOUGLAS  
AP Sports Writer

In Oleksandr Usyk, boxing has a rising, unbeaten star ready to further shake up a revitalized heavyweight division.

The Ukrainian fighter just has one last job to finish off at cruiserweight level.

Usyk makes the first defense of his four cruiserweight titles when he takes on Tony Bellew in Manchester on Saturday. It will be Usyk's 16th professional fight, and likely his last in a division he unified in July.

The 31-year-old Usyk is planning to make the step up to heavyweight — the division in which he won Olympic gold at the 2012 London Games — and there's already talk of a fight against Anthony Joshua, the IBF, WBO and WBA titleholder. This all sounds familiar to Bellew.

Last year, Bellew climbed up from cruiserweight to heavyweight to fight David Haye, another boxer who intended to use Bellew as a way to get a lucrative fight with Joshua.

Bellew upset the odds by knocking out Haye in the 11th round and then, in a rematch in May, stopped the former heavyweight champion in the fifth round.

The 35-year-old Liverpool native has already been world cruiserweight champion and has a 30-2-1 record. The fight against Usyk is set to be his last before retirement.

"One more night to survive through," Bellew said, "and then I go on to live the dream life with my family." It could be the biggest night of his boxing career — and possibly the toughest.

Usyk, a southpaw, has risen virtually untouched through the professional ranks since leaving his amateur days behind him after the London Olympics. Eleven of his 15 wins have come inside the distance. As an amateur, he was also a world and European champion.

"The only chance I have is a puncher's chance — I cannot outbox this man," Bellew said. "He is a formidable opponent. He has everything any boxer could possibly want and he is a horrible southpaw."

"But I've shown what I can do at heavyweight and, believe you me, I will show even more what I can do at cruiserweight. I am faster, sharper and possibly even stronger at cruiserweight. As good as he is, as great as he is, he is meeting



In this Thursday, May 3, 2018 file photo, Tony Bellew gestures during a press conference prior to the heavyweight bout against David Haye in London.

Associated Press

someone with something inside him."

Given Bellew's improved standing in recent years and the fact the fight is being held in Britain, Usyk's profile is set to be bigger than ever if he wins.

"Tony is my best opponent ever, definitely," he said Thursday.

Usyk was born in Crimea and has said he was forced to leave the peninsula after Russia annexed it from

Ukraine in 2014.

He became undisputed cruiserweight champion after fighting three times in 10 months in the World Boxing Super Series, in which he beat Marco Huck, the then-WBC champion Mairis Briedis, and most recently Murat Gassiev in July.

What stood out, in particular, during those wins was his remarkable footwork and movement that the aging Bellew could strug-

gle with.

Comparing the two fighters, Bellew — the underdog — appears to have one major advantage: Experience.

And potentially another.

"Tony's left hook is the equalizer," the now-retired Haye said in the build-up. "If Tony can land that left hook to the head, that left hook to the body, he can really get a foothold in this fight and turn the tide." □

# Garcia dominant on Day 1 at Nedbank Golf Challenge

SUN CITY, South Africa (AP) — Sergio Garcia flew into a four-shot lead at the Nedbank Golf Challenge after an 8-under 64 on Thursday secured the biggest first-round advantage on the European Tour for a year.

Garcia, twice a Sun City winner before the Nedbank became part of the tour, made eight birdies in a brilliant start to the penultimate tournament of the season to move four strokes clear of Charl Schwartzel, Mike Lorenzo-Vera and Mikko Korhonen at the Gary Player Country Club. The lead was the biggest first-round advantage since Arjun Atwal led by four at the Mauritius Open last



In this Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018 file photo, Europe's Sergio Garcia celebrates after holing a putt on the 17th green during a fourball match on the second day of the 42nd Ryder Cup at Le Golf National in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, outside Paris, France.

Associated Press

November.

Rory McIlroy, one of five players with a chance of

being crowned European No. 1 at the end of the season, shot a level-par 72

after a double-bogey six on his second-to-last hole spoiled his round.

McIlroy missed the fairway off the tee on No. 17 and then found a bunker. He ended the day in a tie for 21st.

Li Haotong, who can also win the Race to Dubai at next week's Tour Championship, carded a 71. A third player capable of ending the year as Europe's No. 1, Lucas Bjerregaard, was 3-over. Race to Dubai leader Francesco Molinari and second-placed Tommy Fleetwood aren't playing in Sun City.

Garcia's two Nedbank titles came in 2001 and 2003, and his 64 was his lowest round at the tournament

for 17 years. He began with a birdie on Thursday and twice reeled off three in a row.

"I felt great," he said. "I rolled the ball nicely. I made some good putts here and there. I probably wasn't swinging unbelievably, but I kept it under control. I kept the ball in play all the time, which is difficult to do here." The 38-year-old Garcia is seeking a second straight victory after winning last month's Andalucia Valderrama Masters, which his foundation sponsors.

McIlroy, without a European Tour win this season, needs at least one victory in the next two weeks to have a chance of being crowned Europe's No. 1 for a fourth time. □



## OLYMPIC FONDS

Continued from Page 17

To be sure, the money — SafeSport will use \$1 million in the first year, \$875,000 in Year 2 and \$378,000 in Year 3 — represents a significant infusion for an office operating on \$6.4 million in 2018. But according to the rules of the Justice Department grant awarded last month, it must all be directed toward prevention and education programs, and for auditing national governing bodies' work in sex-abuse prevention — not the most acute needs for an operation that has struggled to hire investigators to look into the 1,622 complaints, an average of 85 a month, that have come its way.

The backlog is growing steadily, with spikes coming whenever sex-abuse and assault cases make big headlines.

Not long after opening, when the #MeToo movement and Nassar allegations were in the headlines, the number of reports coming into the center rose from 20 to 30 a month to that same number each week. Over the two weeks that Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation topped the news because of sexual assault allegations that he denies, the center received 135 calls.

The center has 14 employees on its response and resolution team, including six full-time investigators and another dozen who work on a contract basis. According to numbers provided by the center, full-time investigators handle an average of 10 active cases at any given time and the contractors handle between three and six. That means no more than 132 of the 800-plus cases are being investigated at any given time.

The \$2.2 million grant won't help resolve any of those manpower issues.

"We're looking at all kinds of strategies of knocking down that backlog," Pfohl said. "It's not just throwing bodies at the workload. It's also being very strategic about the type of people we're hiring who can help folks from the time they call us to submit a report."

The Senate subcommittee hearings being chaired by Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kansas, may lead to revisiting the law that formed the USOC, potentially reshaping the relationship between the USOC and the 50 national governing bodies it oversees. More stringent language about handling sex-abuse cases could be added.

A spokeswoman for Moran said the panel is reviewing whether the center needs additional resources but could not explain the reason the grant was written the way it was.

"Senator Moran ... is uniquely positioned to address resource-related concerns as appropriate," said spokeswoman Morgan Said. Lawmakers are looking for other ways to fund the center, she said.

The U.S. Olympic Committee provides \$3.1 million a year for SafeSport, and earlier this year, the organizations that run Olympic sports in America (national governing bodies) combined to increase their contribution by nearly 25 percent to a total of \$2 million a year starting in 2019. When the USOC pushed to open the center amid growing outrage over slow responses to scandals in swimming, taekwondo and other sports, it searched for funding across the sports landscape — from pro leagues to the NCAA and elsewhere — but found few backers. The relative dearth of cash flow has slowed the center's mission. Since its opening, SafeSport investigations have led to 381 disciplinary actions, including 222 cases that led to permanent ineligibility. The discipline is similar to what the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency does on the drug front.

By comparison, USADA, which also must fund a robust testing system, reported \$21 million in revenue in 2017, \$9.5 million of which came from a grant from the federal Office of National Drug Control Policy and another \$5.1 million of which came from the USOC. There were no significant strings attached to USADA's government grant.

(The USOC, chastened

by critics for not reacting strongly enough to the Russian doping scandal, increased USADA funding by about 35 percent from 2016. Under similar criticism, it has doubled its outlay to the SafeSport Center since the opening.)

Earlier this year, Congress passed a bill requiring that the USOC and sports federations under its umbrella report abuse allegations to law enforcement. It also granted authority to SafeSport as a place for athletes to report abuse allegations. The Senate version of that bill included \$1 million for the SafeSport center, but that funding was stripped when the bill reached the House. The grant, part of the omnibus spending bill, originally was written to be \$2.5 million per year for five years, but the full amount was not appropriated, Pfohl said. That left \$2.2 mil-



In this May 23, 2018 file photo, U.S. Center for SafeSport President and CEO Shellie Pfohl testifies before the House Commerce Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee about the Olympic community's ability to protect athletes from sexual abuse, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

lion total over three years, and though the SafeSport center was the only legitimate competitor for the money, it still needed about six months to apply for and receive the grant. "When you know the original bill was worth \$2.5 million for five years, then you

come to find out that the actual final allocation is \$2 million over three years that can't be used for investigations, it's just a slap in the face for an important effort," said Max Cobb, the American NGB leader who spearheaded that group's funding increase. □



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# After shot to head from Malkin, Oshie lifts Caps over Pens



Washington Capitals goaltender Braden Holtby (70) stops the puck during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018, in Washington. The Capitals won 2-1.

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — T.J. Oshie left for the second time after taking Evgeni Malkin's shoulder to the head but returned to score late and lift the Washington Capitals over the rival Pittsburgh Penguins 2-1 on Wednesday night in a meeting of the two most recent Stanley Cup champions.

Alex Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby traded goals, and Oshie got the winner with 1:14 left following a dangerous hit from Malkin. The Penguins star was thrown out of the game for an illegal check to the head and could get a hearing with the NHL's department of player safety.

Capitals goaltender Braden Holtby stopped 41 of 42 shots for his first victory since Oct. 22. The only goal he allowed was Crosby's eighth of the season, which came on the power play. Pittsburgh's Casey DeSmith stopped 20 of 22 shots in his first career start against Washington. The Penguins lost their fifth in a row and could be without Malkin in the near future.

**DUCKS 3, FLAMES 2**

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)** — Ryan Getzlaf scored 27 seconds after Calgary got a tying goal in the third period to lift Anaheim.

The Flames trailed 2-0 in the first but rallied to tie it six minutes into the third on Mark Jankowski's short-handed goal. Getzlaf then was able to corral a loose puck in front of the goal and directed a backhand

through Mike Smith's legs for his second game-winner of the season.

Jakob Silfverberg and Adam Henrique also scored for Anaheim. Ryan Miller made 37 saves and tied Andy Moog (372) for 17th on the career wins list. Matthew Tkachuk also scored for Calgary, and Smith stopped 21 shots.

**PREDATORS 4, AVALANCHE 1**

**DENVER (AP)** — Colton Sissons got his second career hat trick and Colorado had two apparent goals nullified on replay review as Nashville beat the Avalanche.

Ryan Hartman added an empty-net goal with 2:54 left in Nashville's 11th consecutive regular-season victory against Colorado, which has lost four straight overall.

Trailing 2-0, the Avalanche had an apparent goal at 1:29 of the second period waived off after a replay review showed the puck had drifted across the blue line, making it offside. Samuel Girard was straddling the blue line when he passed to Ian Cole, whose shot zoomed into the net past goalie Pekka Rinne only to have it erased after the Predators' challenge was upheld. A second Avalanche goal was disallowed, on a shot by Colin Wilson, with 12:33 remaining in the third following a Predators challenge. Officials took away the score after the replay review, saying the Avs were offside when the play started. □

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## Anthony Davis has 32 points, 15 rebounds; Pelicans end skid

By The Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — Anthony Davis had 32 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks in his best game since spraining his right elbow nearly two weeks ago, and the New Orleans Pelicans ended a six-game skid with a 107-98 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday night.

After missing four of his first five shots, Davis hit his next eight, including two 3s and a two-handed reverse alley-oop jam, while on his way to his first 30-plus point game since New Orleans beat the Los Angeles Clippers on Oct. 23.

Jrue Holiday had 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists while being guarded primarily by brother Justin. Julius Randle and Wesley Johnson each scored 12 points for New Orleans.

Zach LaVine scored 22 and Jabari Parker had 20 points and 13 rebounds for Chicago, which has dropped five of six games. Justin Holiday and Wendell Carter Jr. each had 17 points, and Carter had 11 rebounds.

**LAKERS 114, TIMBERWOLVES 110**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — LeBron James had 24 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, and Kyle Kuzma scored six of his 21 points in the final minutes of Los Angeles' victory over Minnesota.

Josh Hart scored 21 points and Brandon Ingram added 20 for the Lakers, who avenged a loss at Minnesota nine days earlier with a tenacious finish at Staples

Center.

Kuzma's fourth 3-pointer put the Lakers up 111-104 with 1:51 to play for their biggest lead of the night. Derrick Rose promptly hit back-to-back 3-pointers for the Wolves, trimming the lead to one with 1:06 left.

Kuzma hit one of two free throws with 9.5 seconds left after two huge offensive rebounds by Tyson Chandler, who had nine boards in an auspicious Lakers debut. Rose missed a 3 under heavy defensive pressure from Chandler, and Hart hit two free throws to seal it.

Rose scored 31 points and Jimmy Butler added 24 for the Timberwolves, who dropped to 0-7 on the road this season with their fourth consecutive loss overall. Minnesota had won five straight over the Lakers.

James fell just shy of his 75th triple-double, but scored nine points in the fourth quarter.

**RAPTORS 114, KINGS 105**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)** — Kawhi Leonard had 25 points and 11 rebounds in his return from an ankle injury, and Toronto beat Sacramento to improve the NBA's best record to 11-1.

Pascal Siakam scored 21 points, Serge Ibaka had 14 points and 14 rebounds, and Kyle Lowry added 16 points and eight assists for the Raptors.

Toronto has won five straight since its lone loss this season at Milwaukee on Oct. 29.

Leonard sat out the previous two games and got

off to a sluggish start early against the Kings before helping Toronto pull away. The two-time All-Star scored 10 points in the second quarter and 10 in the third, including a soaring, one-handed dunk through traffic. Toronto has won three straight against the Kings.

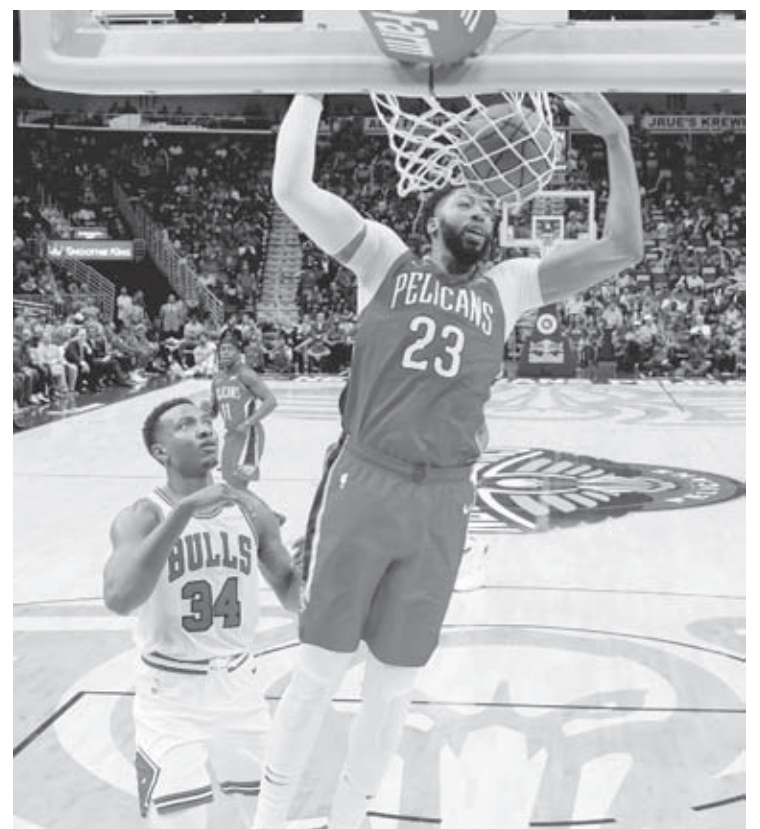
Willie Cauley-Stein and Buddy Hield scored 24 points apiece for Sacramento.

**THUNDERS 95, CAVALIERS 86**

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Dennis Schroder scored a season-high 28 points in replacing injured star Russell Westbrook and Oklahoma City beat Cleveland.

Westbrook sprained his left ankle Monday, but the Thunder withstood Cleveland's fourth-quarter run without the two-time MVP to win its sixth straight game after starting the season 0-4. Cleveland (1-10) rallied from an 11-point deficit early in the fourth quarter to go ahead. Oklahoma City led 78-67 before the Cavaliers went on a 13-0 run. J.R. Smith and Kyle Korver each hit two 3-pointers and the Cavaliers led 80-78 with 7:02 remaining. Alex Abrines' 3-pointer from the corner gave the Thunder the lead for good with 4:31 to play.

Paul George added 18 points for Oklahoma City. Cleveland rookie point guard Collin Sexton made his first career start, with George Hill out with a sore right shoulder. Sexton had 15 points in a career-high



New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) dunks over Chicago Bulls forward Wendell Carter Jr. (34) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018. The Pelicans won 107-98.

Associated Press

42 minutes.

**HEAT 95, SPURS 88**

**MIAMI (AP)** — Hassan Whiteside had 29 points, 20 rebounds and an NBA season-high nine blocked shots, and Miami snapped a four-year drought against San Antonio.

Wayne Ellington scored 20 points, and Justise Winslow added 16. Miami was down to an eight-man rotation for the second half because of injuries and Dwyane Wade missing the game for personal reasons. The Heat had dropped their last nine regular-season games to the Spurs — and 11 consecutive games overall in the series, when factoring in the 2014 NBA Finals. Patty Mills had 20 points for San Antonio.

**PISTONS 103, MAGIC 96**

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — An-

dre Drummond had 23 points and 19 rebounds and Detroit beat Orlando to snap a five-game losing streak.

Blake Griffin added 20 points, Reggie Jackson had 15, and Stanley Johnson 13. Evan Fournier led Orlando with 27 points, and D.J. Augustin had 16.

Fournier hit three straight shots and Aaron Gordon added a dunk to pull Orlando to 94-93 with 2:58 left. Griffin made two free throws to start a 9-0 run that Jackson finished with a 3-pointer and a layup.

**76ERS 100, PACERS 94**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Joel Embiid scored 20 points and Ben Simmons nearly had a triple double to lead Philadelphia past Indiana for its first road victory of the season. □



# MLB All-Stars beat Japan's Giants ahead of exhibition tour

By JIM ARMSTRONG

**TOKYO (AP)** — J.T. Realmuto and Amed Rosario drove in two runs each to lead the MLB All-Stars over the Yomiuri Giants 9-6 on Thursday in a warm-up game ahead of their six-game exhibition series against Japan's national team.

Juan Soto hit a double off the roof of Tokyo Dome in the third inning that scored Yadier Molina from second to give the MLB team a 4-0 lead. Realmuto then doubled in a run and Rosario added two more on a single as the MLB squad scored five runs in the inning to take a 7-0 lead.

Realmuto also hit an opposite-field solo homer in the fifth to make it 8-3.

After the game, Realmuto got to experience a Japanese baseball tradition when he was invited on the field to take part in the "hero interview" in front of the Tokyo Dome crowd.



MLB All-Star catcher J.T. Realmuto of the Miami Marlins hits a solo home-run off Yomiuri Giants pitcher Ryusei Oe in the fifth inning of their exhibition baseball game at Tokyo Dome in Tokyo, Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018.

Associated Press

"This is awesome, we don't do this in the United States so I'm really excited to be here with you guys," Realmuto said. "Hopefully, I can keep hitting well and be here with you again."

The highlight for the home fans came in the fourth when Seiya Matsubara's

sinking liner split the gap between Ronald Acuna Jr. and Soto in left-center field. By the time Acuna retrieved the ball and got it back into the infield, Matsubara had raced around the bases for a three-run inside-the-park home run that cut the MLB stars' lead to 7-4. □

## No deal: Mayweather says he never agreed to bout in Japan

**TOKYO (AP)** — Floyd Mayweather has called off his bout with Japanese kickboxer Tenshin Nasukawa and says he was "blindsided" by promoters of the proposed New Year's Eve event.

Mayweather posted a statement on Instagram saying: "First and foremost, I want it to be clear that I, Floyd Mayweather, never agreed to an official bout with Tenshin Nasukawa."

Mayweather attended a news conference in Tokyo on Monday, when the Dec. 31 fight against the 20-year-old kickboxer was announced.

"Once I arrived to the press conference, my team and I were completely derailed by the new direction this event was going and we should have put a stop to it immediately," Mayweather posted. "I want to sincerely apologize to my fans for the very misleading informa-



Floyd Mayweather of the U.S. speaks during a press conference in Tokyo, Monday, Nov. 5, 2018.

Associated Press

tion that was announced during this press conference and I can assure you that I too was completely blindsided by the arrangements that were being made without my consent nor approval."

The 41-year-old Mayweather is 50-0 in his boxing career. He has never fought professionally under MMA rules, although he did have a lucrative win over MMA fighter Conor McGregor last year. □



U.S. forward Sydney Brodt scores on Canada goaltender Shannon Szabados, right, and forward Blayre Turnbull during the third period of a Four Nations Cup hockey preliminary game in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018.

Associated Press

## Brodt lifts U.S. women past Canada in 4 Nations

**SASKATOON, Saskatchewan (AP)** — Sydney Brodt scored with 1:38 left to give the United States a 2-1 victory over Canada on Wednesday night in the Four Nations Cup, the first meeting between the women's hockey powers since the Americans' shootout victory in February in the Olympic final. Brodt beat goalie Shannon Szabados when a rebound deflected off the American's midsection.

"It came pretty fast, somewhere in my chest it hit me," Brodt said. "I was lucky enough to be standing there and it was awesome."

Both teams were coming off opening blowout victories Tuesday night, the U.S. 5-1 over Finland, and Canada 6-1 over Sweden. The U.S. is seeking its fourth straight title in the event.

"We played our game tonight and came out with a hard-earned victory," U.S. coach Bob Corkum said. "Our philosophy is to have a shooter's mentality and get many shots on net, and get to the net. That seems to be the way goals go in these days at any level. The goalies are just so good." Hannah Brandt scored for the U.S. 1:18 into the game, and Loren Gabel tied it at 3:30 of the third period.

"I've seen enough U.S.-Canada games," said Canadian coach Perry Pearn, a longtime NHL assistant coach. "You know every time you play them, it's going to be a fine, fine line between winning and losing."

Alex Rigsby made 23 saves for the U.S., and Szabados stopped 31 shots.

"We've got to put the puck deep," Canadian captain Marie-Philip Poulin said. "We kind of created a couple of turnovers at our blue lines. We know Szabby is a great goalie. She's going to stand on her head for us, but we've got to help her out."

Earlier Wednesday, Jenna Silvonon made 28 saves in Finland's 3-2 victory over Sweden.

Venla Hovi, Riikka Valila and Emma Nuutinen scored to give Finland a 3-0 lead.

Lisa Johansson and Hanna Olsson connected for Sweden 20 seconds apart late in the third with Maria Omberg off for an extra attacker.

On Friday in the final round-robin games, the U.S. will face Sweden, and Canada will meet Finland. The top two will advance to the final Saturday night, and the other two will meet for third place. □





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# NASCAR's culture of cheating unmasked during playoffs

By JENNA FRYER

**AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP)** — The credo in NASCAR has always been "If you ain't cheatin', you ain't tryin'," and that has never changed despite series effort to keep things on the up-and-up.

Now that culture has resurfaced again and at a most inopportune time for the beleaguered series.

There is one race to go to set the championship field, Sunday in Phoenix, and star driver Kevin Harvick has been snared in the latest scandal. NASCAR found Harvick had an illegal race-winning car — his second of the season — after his victory at Texas Motor Speedway earned him an automatic berth in the Nov. 18 title race in Florida.

The issue was with a spoiler that had been modified to give Harvick an aerodynamic advantage as he dominated and won for a Cup Series-high eighth time this season. Just how much of an advantage Harvick had is irrelevant: The levels of deceit NASCAR believes Stewart-Haas Racing went to were so devious the intent can't be questioned.

Once NASCAR had the car back from Texas and in its Research and Development Center, the spoiler was removed and determined not to be the part supplied by the vendor. Instead, NASCAR believes SHR made its own spoiler, passed it off as one from the mandatory vendor and used it to help Harvick win. The details were unveiled late Wednesday, 10 hours after Harvick's spot in the finale was revoked. NASCAR has for several years refused to give specifics about infractions — keeping secret ideas on how to game the system — but reversed course on the

Harvick penalty because of mounting criticism about the severity of his punishment. Not only did Harvick lose his spot in the final four at Homestead-Miami Speedway, but he must race the final two weeks of the season without his crew chief and car chief.

Scott Miller, NASCAR's senior vice president of competition, said he felt SHR took the notion of pushing boundaries and exploring technology "into borderline ridiculous territory."

With the stakes so high this weekend at Phoenix, where seven drivers will be vying for three open spots in the championship race, NASCAR will check spoilers at the track.

"It's unfortunate that now we'll be pulling spoilers off and having to do another inspection when the teams should really be bringing legal cars to the race track," Miller said.

SHR has not challenged NASCAR's cheating allegation. The team said it would not appeal the penalty and vice president of competition Greg Zipadelli said in a statement "NASCAR determined we ventured into an area not accommodated by its rule book." The team has not made any members available for comment, and Harvick is not scheduled to speak to the media at Phoenix, where he is a nine-time winner. One of his victories came in the spring, part of a three-race winning streak marred by an illegal car at Las Vegas one week earlier.

The latest infraction raises questions about whether SHR has "ventured into an area not accommodated" by NASCAR's rulebook with its other drivers. Its entire four-car lineup — Harvick, Kurt Busch, Clint Bowyer



In this Sunday, Nov. 4, 2018, file photo, Kevin Harvick (4) passes David Starr (97) during the NASCAR Cup auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas.

Associated Press

and Aric Almirola — is still eligible for the title race.

It wasn't just SHR last weekend, either. NASCAR took three cars back to its R&D Center after Texas and all three failed teardown inspections. Ryan Blaney's team was punished and so was the team for Erik Jones. If the only three cars inspected failed, what about the other 37 cars in Sunday's field?

"We certainly can't bring the 40-car field back to R&D," Miller said, elaborating on how issues get missed at the track. "We're under time constraints at the race track to do these inspections. We have small windows and tight windows to get the inspections done, and we might spend in the neighborhood of five minutes with each of the 40 cars for the three-hour window that we have for inspection. To think that we can scrutinize a car as

good in five minutes and we can in three hours at the R&D Center is a bit unrealistic."

The last big scandal in NASCAR was in 2013, when Michael Waltrip Racing manipulated the finish of a race at Richmond to try to get Martin Truex Jr. into the playoffs. It led to a larger NASCAR investigation that uncovered at least one other case of race manipulation.

The latest scandal may be the tipping point for a revamped penalty system next season. Miller said the sanctioning body will look during the offseason at tougher penalties if a team that can't even pass the first round of inspection.

"We realize that we kind of probably need to ramp up the severity of what goes on at the race track, and we're hoping that we can change the culture to where we don't have to

play this cat-and-mouse game with the teams all the time," Miller said.

What happens if a car fails inspection after winning the title? It wasn't until Wednesday morning, long after Sunday's race, that NASCAR revealed Harvick's car had failed inspection. Miller vowed intense scrutiny on the four championship-contending cars at Homestead, and said the post-race procedure is similar to the Daytona 500, where engines are examined at the track after the race. "Knowing that so much is on the line, we can concentrate on those cars a little bit more than we can the 40-car field during the regular season," Miller said. "So we'll just ramp up the intensity of keeping people with eyes on those cars throughout the weekend and scrutinize those cars heavily, both before and after the race." □



# Smartphone makers bet on foldable screens as next big thing

By **MICHAEL LIETKE**

**AP Technology Writer  
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —**

For the past few years, the smartphone industry has been searching for a breakthrough to revive a market mired in an innovation lull and a sales slump. A potential catalyst is on the horizon in the form of flexible screens that can be folded in half without breaking.

Samsung and several rivals are preparing to roll out such screens to make devices more versatile for work and pleasure. The foldable screens could increase display space to the size of a mini-tablet, but fold like a wallet so they revert to the size of regular phones. But there are questions about price and durability.

If the new phones fulfill their makers' ambitions, they will become a leap ahead for an industry whose origins can be traced to the old flip phones that consumers once embraced as cool and convenient. Foldable-screen phones, though,



In this photo taken Monday, Nov. 5, 2018, is a FlexPai smartphone with a flexible screen displayed in San Francisco.

**Associated Press**

won't need hinges because they have continuous displays that can bend. In an indication of how difficult it is to make a flexible

screen that's also durable, Samsung first announced plans to build a folding-screen phone five years ago. It wasn't until Wednes-

day, though, that Samsung finally provided a glimpse at what it's been working on.

"We have been living in a world where the size of a screen could only be as large as the device itself," said Justin Denison, Samsung's senior vice president of mobile product marketing. "We have just entered a new dimension."

Except for a fleeting look at a device he held in a hand, Denison provided scant information about the phone. Samsung says it will be ready to hit the market at some point next year.

Smartphone makers are looking for something to excite consumers as they replace phones less often because new models are pricey and aren't that much different from their predecessors beyond slightly better cameras and batteries.

That's the main reason worldwide smartphone sales have fallen from the previous year for four consecutive quarters, accord-

ing to IDC. Add it all up, and smartphone sales declined by 4 percent during 12 months ending in September. Samsung, the world's leading seller of smartphones, suffered a 7 percent decline in shipments during that period, based on IDC's calculations. But it's not clear whether flexible-screen phones will have mass appeal, especially when the bendy devices are expected to cost more than \$1,000. Royole Corp., a small Silicon Valley company, is hoping to sell early versions of its FlexPai foldable-screen phone for \$1,300 to \$1,500 once it comes to the U.S. — something that won't happen until next year, at the earliest. For now, it will be available in China starting next month, at a price equivalent to about \$1,300.

While the idea of a device being able to bend into different shapes may sound good, IDC analyst Ramon Llamas is skeptical about how practical and durable they will be. □

# Google reforms sexual misconduct rules

By **MICHAEL LIETKE**

**AP Technology Writer  
SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —**

Google is promising to be more forceful and open about its handling of sexual misconduct cases, a week after high-paid engineers and others walked out in protest over its male-dominated culture.

CEO Sundar Pichai spelled out the concessions in an email sent Thursday to Google employees. The note of contrition came a week after the tech giant's workers left their cubicles in dozens of offices around the world to protest management's treatment of top executives and other male workers accused of sexual harassment and other misconduct involving men. The protest's organizers estimated that about 20,000 workers participated in the walkout.

"Google's leaders and I have heard your feedback and have been moved by

the stories you've shared," Pichai wrote in his email. "We recognize that we have not always gotten everything right in the past and we are sincerely sorry for that. It's clear we need to make some changes." Pichai's email was obtained by The Associated Press.

Google bowed to one of the protesters' main demands by dropping mandatory arbitration of all sexual misconduct cases. That will now be optional under the new policies. It mirrors a change made by ride-hailing service Uber after the complaints of its women employees prompted an internal investigation concluding its rank had been poisoned by rampant sexual harassment.

Google will also provide more details about sexual misconduct cases in internal reports available to all employees. The breakdowns will include the number of cases that were



In this May 8, 2018, file photo, Google CEO Sundar Pichai speaks at the Google I/O conference in Mountain View, Calif.

**Associated Press**

substantiated within various company departments and list the types of punishment imposed, including firings, pay cuts and mandated counseling.

The company is also stepping up its training aimed at preventing misconduct, requiring all employees to go through the process annually instead of every other year. Those who fall

behind in their training, including top executives, will be dinged in their annual performance reviews, leaving a blemish that could lower their pay and make it more difficult to get promoted.

The reforms are the latest fallout from a broader societal backlash against men's exploitation of their women subordinates in business,

entertainment and politics — a movement that has spawned the "MeToo" hashtag as a sign of unity and a call for change.

Google got caught in the crosshairs two weeks ago after The New York Times detailed allegations of sexual misconduct about the creator of Google's Android software, Andy Rubin. The newspaper said Rubin received a \$90 million severance package in 2014 after Google concluded the accusations were credible. Rubin has denied the allegations.

Like its Silicon Valley peers, Google has already openly acknowledged that its workforce is too heavily concentrated with white and Asian men, especially in the highest paying executive and computer programming jobs. Women account for 31 percent of Google's employees worldwide, and it's lower for leadership roles. □



# Do your kids a favor: Pick retirement savings over tuition

By KEVIN VOIGT  
Associated Press

Most financial planners advise never tapping retirement savings to pay for your kid's education. Even as college costs climb, there are still options to borrow that cash, whereas it's often noted that you can't borrow for retirement.

Yet about one-third of Americans with kids under 18 say they plan to use retirement savings or "could use if needed" to help pay for their children's education, according to a recent survey by Sallie Mae, one of the nation's largest student loan lenders.

The good news for retirement savings is that number is declining — in the 2016 edition of Sallie Mae's survey, 39 percent of parents said they planned or may use retirement savings as a last resort to fund their children's education.

More parents are now thinking twice about using retirement savings to fund college dreams, and here's why their hesitation is warranted.

## LOST RETIREMENT SAVINGS COULD HURT YOU

Paying for school from a



This June 15, 2018, file photo shows U.S. currency on a counter in East Derry, N.H.

Associated Press

tax-advantaged employer retirement account like a 401(k) can hurt you in several ways:

?A 10 percent tax penalty on early withdrawals below age 59½.

?A potentially bigger tax bill the year of withdrawal as the money you withdraw is counted as income.

?Loss of tax-free growth of your savings. Unlike taxable investment accounts, where you may have to pay the IRS annually for capital gains, employer-

sponsored retirement accounts can grow tax-free.

?Less benefit from compounding. Early withdrawals will erode your portfolio's growth potential.

But if you're going to tap into your retirement savings, experts say the "least worst" option is to fund a Roth IRA. Unlike qualifying contributions to a 401(k) or traditional IRA, Roth IRA contributions aren't tax-exempt. But as a result, there are also fewer restrictions on early withdrawals.

"You can withdraw any Roth IRA contributions that you've made without penalty," says Crystal Wipperfurth, a certified financial planner with Bronfman Rothschild in Madison, Wisconsin. "This is not ideal, because it reduces your retirement savings, but it is an option."

## IT COULD HURT YOUR KIDS, TOO

Tapping your retirement savings can boomerang to hurt your kids if they need to provide financial help for

you in your later years.

"We see clients want to help their kids through college at the expense of their own retirement, and we always advise against it," says Matt Ahrens, a financial advisor at Integrity Advisory in Overland Park, Kansas. "Parents have to understand that sacrificing to help their kids through college may only put more stress on their children when they see their parents struggling financially in retirement."

A more immediate blow: Using your retirement funds could hurt your child's ability to qualify for student aid. Why? The cash is considered "ordinary income" and may put your total wages for the year beyond what qualifies for assistance. Because retirement accounts aren't counted when considering if a family economically qualifies, "funding your 401(k) or 403(b) is an advantage for college financial aid," says Kimberly J. Howard, a certified financial planner with KJH Financial Services in Newton, Massachusetts. Cash them out, and that exclusion goes away. □

# Nissan sees profit dip as sales fall, offsetting cost cuts

By YURI KAGEYAMA

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japanese automaker Nissan reported Thursday an 8 percent fall in profit for the latest quarter as declining sales offset the benefits of cost cuts.

Nissan Motor Co.'s July-September profit totaled 130.4 billion yen (\$1.1 billion) Thursday, down from 141.6 billion yen the same period a year earlier.

Quarterly sales dipped nearly 3 percent to 2.82 trillion yen (\$24.8 billion).

Nissan, which makes the March subcompact, Leaf electric car and Infiniti luxury models, stuck to its forecast for the fiscal year through March for a 500 billion yen (\$4.4 billion) profit on 12 trillion yen (\$106 billion) sales.

The company's chief financial officer, Hiroshi Karube, said Nissan's

quarterly vehicle sales fell in North America and Europe, but rose in China, while they held relatively steady in Japan, compared to last year.

He told reporters Nissan was working hard to restore profitability in the key U.S. market. The rising cost of raw materials also eroded earnings, he said.

Tariffs on steel, aluminum and other raw materials announced by President Donald Trump have had some negative effect, but they were only a small part of the overall rising cost of raw materials, which dented profitability, Karube said.

The effect of some unfavorable currency exchange rates in emerging markets also hurt earnings, according to Nissan, based in the port

city of Yokohama. Cost-cutting efforts were going well, but research spending was on the rise, it said.

Karube was asked repeatedly about his views on the U.S. midterm elections and what that meant for trade and other policies affecting Nissan, but he acknowledged he had no idea.

"It just happened yesterday, and it is today," he said.



This June 14, 2018, file photo shows a Nissan logo at the auto-maker's showroom in Tokyo.

Associated Press

"It is still unclear how the situation may change." □




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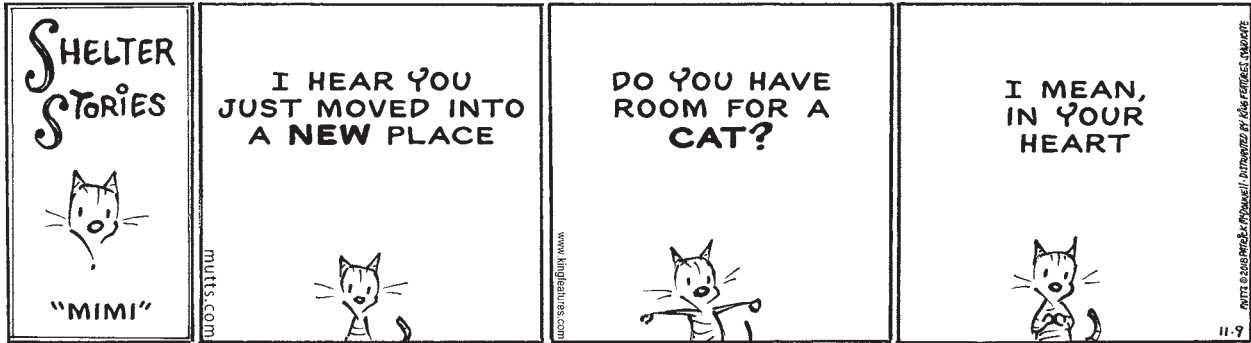


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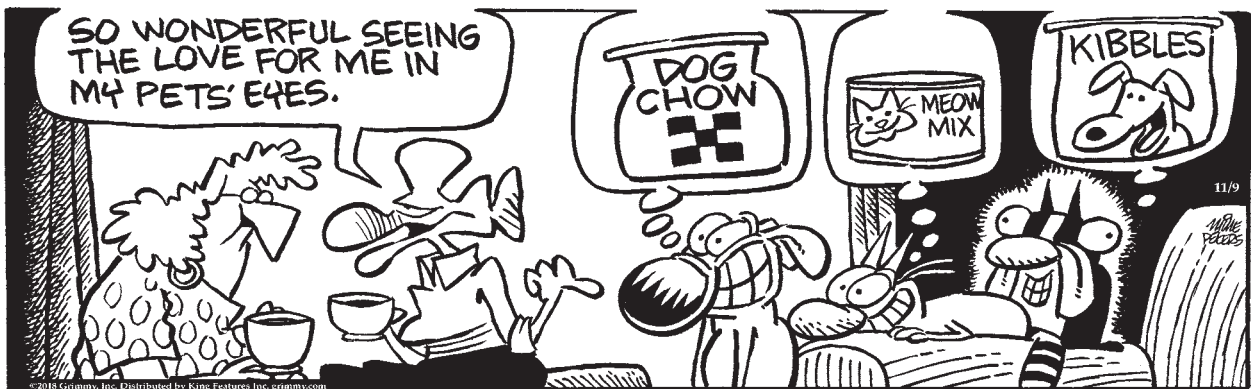
6 Chix



Blondie



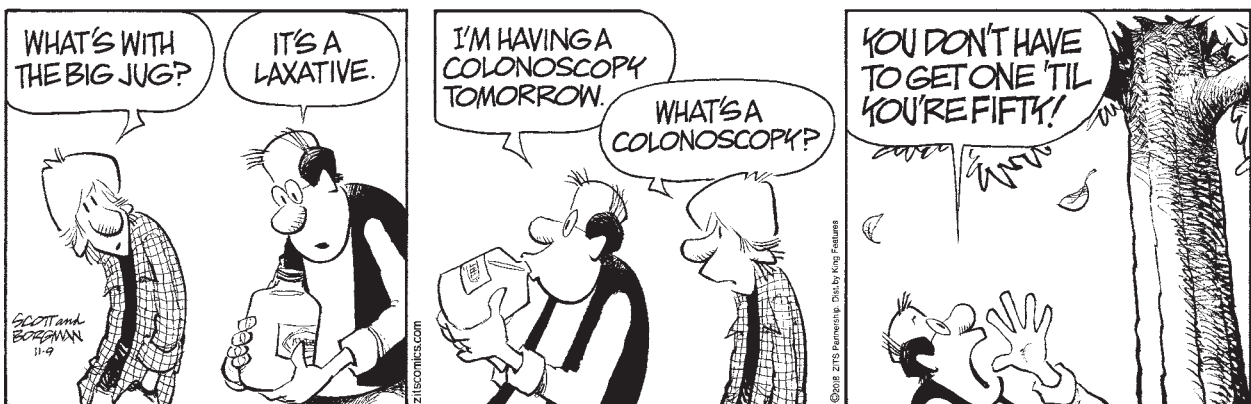
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7			2			6	
3			7		5	4		9
	8							
	2						5	
7				3				6
	3						4	
							7	
6		1	2		9			3
	9			1			2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

11/09

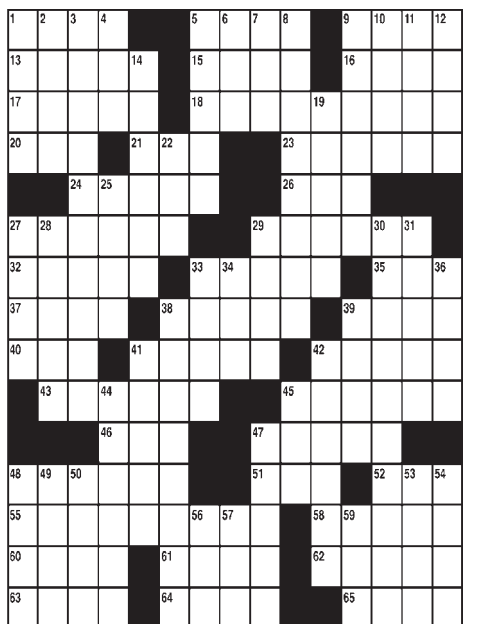
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	4	9	1	3	7	6	8	2
3	6	2	4	5	8	1	7	9
7	1	8	6	2	9	3	5	4
6	9	4	5	7	2	8	3	1
2	7	5	8	1	3	4	9	6
1	8	3	9	4	6	5	2	7
8	5	6	2	9	4	7	1	3
4	2	7	3	8	1	9	6	5
9	3	1	7	6	5	2	4	8

ACROSS

- 1 Water temperature
- 5 Dignitaries
- 9 Swine supper
- 13 Hate
- 15 Remove wrinkles from
- 16 Family member
- 17 Snail's secretion
- 18 Sleeping pills
- 20 Egg producer
- 21 Allow
- 23 Dictator
- 24 Plato's last letter
- 26 TV series for George Eads, once
- 27 Running competitively
- 29 Snapshots
- 32 On the ball
- 33 Inexperienced
- 35 Damone or Tayback
- 37 Give a pink slip to
- 38 Wild felines
- 39 Prepare to eat a banana
- 40 Boxing decision
- 41 Expenses
- 42 Zodiac sign
- 43 de corps; camaraderie
- 45 Stopped for a bit
- 46 Long-tailed rodent
- 47 Goethe's most famous play
- 48 Modernize
- 51 Everyone
- 52 moment; instant of realization
- 55 Brotherly
- 58 Idaho export
- 60 Leak out
- 61 Ages
- 62 Cook clams
- 63 Earned a traffic ticket
- 64 Knighted woman
- 65 Notice



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/9/18

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

TREK	DEBIT	ROTS
RULE	ELATE	OAHU
ASAN	PERSECUTED	
YES	SICK	ASHES
TRACT	DDE	
SHIEST	DRESSY	
LACES	SPRAT	TUB
AVID	SWEAT	MEMO
POT	SLANG	NORMS
CYGNET	MOSEYS	
ROD	LOTTO	
EDGAR	RATE	TOM
BALDERDASH	TYPO	
BLUE	POISE	APED
SEES	MANOR	GENE

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11/9/18

- 36 Clumsy fellow
- 38 Dawdled
- 39 Name for 12 popes
- 41 Wooden box
- 42 Bank safes
- 44 Babbled
- 45 Crony
- 47 Insincere
- 48 Eerie sightings
- 49 up; support from behind or beneath
- 50 Stupor
- 53 Stack
- 54 Branch of the military
- 56 Gun rights org.
- 57 Milne's monogram
- 59 Dined



# Exhibit offers portraits of mummified ancient Egyptians

Associated Press

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — A team of researchers is giving the world a chance to see the faces of two Egyptian women who walked the earth about 2,300 years ago.

The Baltimore Sun reports that detailed portraits based on mummified remains form the core of "Who Am I? Remembering the Dead Through Facial Reconstruction," the newest exhibition on display at the Johns Hopkins University Museum of Archaeology at least until the end of next year.

Experts in fields ranging from fine art, osteology, computer tomology, and craniofacial reconstruction worked together to create the likenesses from two mummies acquired abroad and brought to Baltimore more than a century ago. Sanchita Balachandran, the museum's associate director, sees the exhibit as an opportunity to say, "These people have been with us since the 1880s, and we're only now able to see them as real people."

The veteran of archaeological digs, was familiar with Western collectors' treatment of ancient artifacts, particularly Egyptian mummies. In the early to mid-1800s, Americans of means collected what they saw as exotica in Egypt, where the ceremonially preserved bodies were plentiful.

Mendes I. Cohen, A War of 1812 veteran, acquired a mummy in Egypt in 1834, brought it back to Baltimore, and left it to the university when he died in 1879. John F. Goucher, a local minister, missionary and educator, acquired a mummy in 1895 and brought it to Baltimore, where he donated it to the school he'd founded, the Baltimore Woman's College, later renamed Goucher College. It ended up at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

"They were often seen as curiosities that belonged in sideshows, freak shows and dime museums," said Meg



Detail of the face of the Cohen mummy, whose name may be "Amenirdis," at the new Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum exhibit, "Who Am I? Remembering the Dead Through Facial Reconstruction", in Baltimore.

Associated Press

Swaney, a doctoral student in Near Eastern Studies at Hopkins and co-curator of the exhibit. "People weren't sure whether to display them in natural history museums, or in art museums for the artifacts they came with. But there was so much curiosity, every museum wanted one."

Balachandran's team, a group that included Swaney and six undergraduates, worked with Caroline Wilkinson, the director of Face Lab, a research group at Liverpool John Moores University in England that carries out forensic and archaeological research. Dr. Elliot K. Fishman, a professor of radiology and the director of diagnostic imaging at Johns Hopkins Hospital, performed a CT scan on the bodies, and those im-

ages provided information for three-dimensional representations.

Researchers contributed other details including pelvic marks that showed both were female and tooth conditions that suggested ages of about 45 or 50. Face Lab built its illustrations out over two years.

The team faced a range of ethical questions along the way, voting for two-dimensional portraits over three-dimensional busts.

"Everyone felt it would risk being too macabre or creating too much of a spectacle," said Swaney, who specializes in the ethics involved in displaying Egyptian remains. They also agreed to render the portraits in grays since no reliable evidence exists regarding skin tone. □



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# Live-streaming a marshland for fun - and science

By MATT O'BRIEN

PLYMOUTH, Mass. (AP)

— If a tree falls in the Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary, it doesn't matter if there's no one around. You can hear it anyway.

That's because researchers have hidden dozens of wireless sensor nodes, microphones and cameras among the cattails and cedars of this Plymouth, Massachusetts nature preserve. Sounds picked up from the marsh and nearby woodland feed into an artificial intelligence system that can identify frogs or crickets, ducks or a passing airplane.

One goal is to help scientists better understand changing climates and improve wildlife restoration techniques. Beyond that, though, researchers want to use the collected data to help power an online virtual reality world — a kind of alternate universe modeled on live conditions in the marsh, but populated with fanciful creatures invented in a computer science lab.

Could this be the future of the nature walk?

As wireless sensors get cheaper, longer-lasting and more sophisticated, they're increasingly turning up everywhere. We're already seeing them in "smart" homes and cities, pulling in data that can be analyzed in real time to smooth traffic flows, save energy, monitor pollution or respond to crime. But what happens when you apply such an internet-connected network to nature?

A research team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been trying it out at Tidmarsh, a former cranberry bog converting back to natural wetlands just a few miles from where



In this Thursday Nov. 1, 2018 photo, Brian Mayton, a research assistant at the MIT Media Lab Responsive Environment group, holds his mobile phone receiving live stream video and audio data at a marshland in Plymouth, Mass., which is equipped with wireless sensors, cameras and microphones to create a virtual reality world inspired by nature's rhythms.

the Pilgrims landed in 1620. Remotely spying on nature isn't new, but the project goes far beyond simple webcams fixed on a hawk's nest or sea lions' favorite pier — or even the more sophisticated acoustic sensors designed to detect animal poachers.

The team's goals for what they call the Living Observatory include supporting wildlife restoration efforts. The sensors measure temperature, moisture and other environmental conditions.

But a broader mission is to offer people — including children — a deeper understanding of nature using their laptops, phones or headsets. They can do so remotely or in person while walking a nature trail, said the project's visionary, Gloriana Davenport, a retired professor and co-founder of the MIT Media Lab.

"It's gorgeous to walk in the woods and not be fiddling with a cell phone," Davenport said. On the other hand, she added, what if you can learn more about the microbial environment,

or the return of an endangered species, from a well-crafted smartphone app or a virtual reality game?

If it works here, Davenport said, researchers are already envisioning more ambitious projects deep in the Amazon rainforest — or on the moon.

The idea has skeptics who are worried about the intrusion of technology and constant surveillance into the world's last places without it. The Massachusetts Audubon Society manages the 480-acre sanctuary and took some time before it agreed to outfit it with live-streaming cameras and microphones. It was assured that human voices would be scrambled.

Educators have also asked Davenport why she would want to encourage kids to carry around their smartphones instead of just appreciating nature without them.

"And I went, 'Why not?' That's how they learn. That is their mechanism of interacting," she said.

The sanctuary is beginning to flourish as it changes from a heavily-fertilized industrial cranberry farm into a wetland full of insects, birds and native plants. The base camp for MIT scholars is also Davenport's home, which she built in 1999 after first visiting the property in the early 1980s. As landowners, she and her husband partnered with

Audubon to transform the land into what it might have looked like before it was carved into manmade bogs in the 19th century.

The research projects reflect the diverse interests of multimedia scholars. Davenport is a documentary filmmaker. Others are computer scientists or musicians. One project creates soundtracks driven by sensor readings — such as higher pitches that indicate warmer temperatures.

Another resembles a more ethereal version of the Pokemon Go augmented reality game, but with elk-like phantoms galloping around a virtual world modeled on the marsh. If the sensors pick up a rainstorm at the real-life Tidmarsh, the animated creatures appear to get wet. If there's a loud, sudden sound, they become startled.

Yet another experiment involves strapping on a special headset while walking through the sanctuary. On a hot afternoon in late summer, MIT researcher Gershon Dublon and his colleagues tromped around the preserve in chest-high waders to show how the sensors can amplify a human's observation of nature.

"The forest is a lot more active than you would think, because wildlife is quieter when you're nearby," Dublon said. □

## First monarch butterflies arrive at Mexico wintering area

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The first monarch butterflies have arrived at their wintering grounds in the mountains of central Mexico almost a week later than usual, Mexico's Environment Department said Wednesday.

Millions of monarchs make the 3,400-mile (5,500-kilometer) migration from the United States and Canada each year. The butterflies usually arrive by Mexico's Nov. 1 Day of the Dead holiday, and local residents long associated their return with the souls of the dead

returning to their homes. But this year, the Environment Department said the first butterflies weren't seen in the mountain reserve west of Mexico City until Nov. 6. It said the butterflies were delayed because they waited out rainy weather around the U.S.-Mexico border.

The monarchs spend the winter clumped together in fir and pine trees. Last year the monarchs covered about 6.12 acres (2.48 hectares), down about 14.7 percent from the pre-

vious winter. As recently as 1996-1997 they covered 44 acres (18 hectares).

There have been several rebound years, but each has generally been less than the preceding upswing.

Increased use of herbicides in the United States have hurt the prevalence of milkweed, which monarch caterpillars feed on, risking their survival. Loss of tree cover in Mexico due to drought, storms and logging has also affected the butterflies' population. □



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# Aretha Franklin doc 'Amazing Grace' to finally see the light

By JAKE COYLE

**NEW YORK (AP)** — More than 46 years after it was shot, the Aretha Franklin concert film "Amazing Grace" will finally be released, ending one of the most tortured and long-running sagas in documentary film.

The late gospel singer's estate and film producers said Monday that "Amazing Grace" will premiere Nov. 12 at the DOC NYC film festival with the full support of Franklin's estate. The film, largely shot by Sydney Pollack, captures Franklin's performance at the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles' Watts neighborhood in January 1972.

The music from the two performances was released as a landmark double live album in 1972. But Pollack's footage proved virtually impossible to edit because the filmmaker failed to sync the sound. After acquiring the film's rights from Pollack in 2007, producer Alan Elliott brought in a team to construct the film, which Elliott calls "a labor of love." "Aretha's fans will be en-



In this March 13, 1972 file photo, Aretha Franklin holds her Grammy Award for Best Rhythm and Blue performance of the song "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," in New York.

Associated Press

thrilled by every moment of the film as her genius, her devotion to God and her spirit are present in every frame," Elliott said in a statement.

Franklin first sued Elliott in 2011 for planning to release

the film without her permission. "Amazing Grace" nearly saw the light of day in 2015, but it was yanked at the last minute from the Telluride and Toronto film festivals after Franklin's attorneys obtained an in-

junction against its release. They argued the film was "the functional equivalent of replaying an entire Aretha Franklin concert," and couldn't be screened without her consent.

A Colorado court largely

agreed, ruling in 2016 that the concert film didn't constitute "fair use," prompting a new round of negotiations. Telluride also listed the film in its 2016 lineup only to pull it yet again. Last year, Telluride executive director Julie Huntsinger told Variety that "(Franklin's) resolve for it not being shown is so intense, and I don't think any of us really understand it all the way."

Franklin passed away in August. Pollack died in 2008. The late singer's estate said "Amazing Grace" was an important part of Franklin's legacy.

"'Amazing Grace' is the heart and soul of Aretha Franklin," Sabrina Owens, Franklin's niece, said Monday. "This film is authentic and is my aunt at her core. She was a daughter of the church, she loved gospel music, and she always incorporated some form of sacred music in her concerts." An Oscar-qualifying release of "Amazing Grace" is planned for this fall, with a larger rollout in theaters likely coming next year. The film doesn't yet have distribution. □

# Author Liane Moriarty serves up laughs, thrills, surprises

By ROB MERRILL

"Nine Perfect Strangers" (Flatiron Books), by Liane Moriarty

Life is good for Liane Moriarty. The "Big Little Lies" novelist who partnered with actress Nicole Kidman to turn that book into a hit HBO series, sold the rights to her new novel, "Nine Perfect Strangers," to her Australian friend before the rest of us could even read it.

So let's help them out and do some casting. Kidman, with a little extra padding and lots of red lipstick, can star as Frances Welty, the romance novelist with a broken heart who is the emotional center of "Nine Perfect Strangers." Eight more actors with name recognition will join the project once she's officially onboard. The key casting decision will be the antagonist, Masha, a former

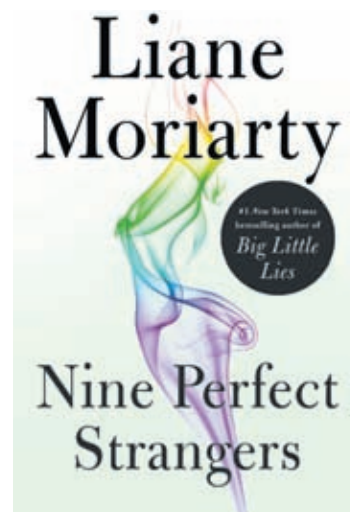
corporate exec turned health and wellness zealot. She needs to be beautiful, but severe. Driven and buttoned-up, but also a little unhinged. Russian, or Eastern European. Milla Jovovich, maybe?

Luckily, before the series comes to a screen near you, you can spend a few hours with the book. It's a quick read, populated by the title characters who sign up for a retreat at Tranquillum House, a resort in Sydney that promises personal transformation in just 10 days. The first half of the 450-page novel is a little slow, but once the nine guests complete their five-day "noble silence," the pace accelerates and the story moves from a series of character perspectives (each chapter title is a character's name) to a light-hearted thriller. As

soon as the strangers can talk, they find themselves with a lot to talk about.

Does Masha really have their best interests at heart? And most important, what the heck is happening to them during the retreat's final "emotional-release exercise?"

Moriarty manages to keep the tone mostly light, despite creating characters with real issues. From a family unable to come to terms with the suicide of their son and brother to a divorce lawyer with daddy issues, all nine characters are adequately developed and feel genuine by book's end. Moriarty has fun fleshing them out through the eyes of Frances: Carmela, a mother of four in her mid-to late thirties, "wearing an oversized brand-new-looking white t-shirt that hung almost to her knees over



This cover image released by Flatiron Books shows "Nine Perfect Strangers," by Liane Moriarty.

Associated Press

black leggings, the standard outfit for an average-sized woman who starts a new exercise program and thinks her perfectly normal body should be hidden." Tony, a retired Aussie Rules footballer, "cradling his big

solid belly on his lap as if it were a baby that had been handed to him without his consent." Or Jessica, a young woman not quite comfortable with her cosmetic enhancements: "(She) didn't sashay as she deserved; rather she scurried, her shoulders hunched as though she were somewhere out of bounds and trying to escape notice." Readers learn much more about each of the nine as the novel speeds toward its climax. You root for them all and get the impression that Moriarty does too, so much so that she has a hard time saying goodbye, writing a series of final chapters updating readers weeks, months and even years later about what happened to them after the events at Tranquillum House. It's an ending fit for a book destined to be a TV series. □



# Chris Pine and David Mackenzie reunite for 'Outlaw King'

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

**TORONTO (AP)** — If you want to see an exhausted Chris Pine, meet him after he's spent a day answering questions about his penis. Following the September premiere of David Mackenzie's "Outlaw King," in which Pine stars as the Scottish hero Robert the Bruce, conversation at the Toronto International Film Festival focused largely on Pine's instant of full-frontal nudity in the film. That such a brief moment should arouse such curiosity — and not, say, anything else in the two-plus hours of historical-epic savagery in the 1300s-set film — was for Pine a sad but telling commentary.

"The fact that visions of nudity, genitalia, making love are somehow the main attraction," said an exasperated Pine in an interview alongside Mackenzie. "All of us go 'Oo oo!' like fifth graders. Literally, it's like talking to a bunch of 14 year-olds, whereas beheadings and all that kind of violence we're so inured to that we don't even ques-



In this Sept. 7, 2018 photo, David Mackenzie, left, director of the film "Outlaw King," and actor Chris Pine pose during the Toronto Film Festival at the Shangri-La Hotel in Toronto.

Associated Press

tion it."

The irony is that Pine's Bruce — like his supporting role in Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman" — is a negotiation with traditional gender roles, even amid all the blood and guts. Pine plays the 14th century King of Scots, who won Scottish independence from England, not as a one-dimen-

sional warrior but a man riven with internal conflict. Scenes with his wife (played by Florence Pugh) are sensitive and tender.

When it's pointed out that his performance — and even that flash of nudity — seems intended to deconstruct traditional masculine archetypes, Pine immediately brightens.

"I've been dying to talk about this stuff all day and we've gotten just myriad, mind-numbing questions about nonsense," Pine replies. "I do think there needs to be a rebalancing of the world. The underlying bass note that we should be hearing is: That is precisely what we're all used to and isn't it kind of interesting that it's so skewed that way, that any notions of tenderness or lovemaking on screen becomes uncomfortable? I think that's probably the masculine and the feminine out of whack in this big, wide universe."

"Outlaw King," which debuts on Netflix and in select theaters Friday, is the streaming service's first big swing at that classic big-screen thing: the historical epic. It reunites Pine with Mackenzie two years after "Hell or High Water," a high-water mark for both the Scottish filmmaker and for Pine, who calls the Oscar-nominated neo-Western "one of my most cherished

experiences making anything."

While they were still making the publicity rounds on "Hell or High Water," Mackenzie slipped Pine the screenplay. When the two sat down in London to talk about it, Pine acknowledges he had some issues with the script but that they quickly found common ground in the desire to make a film not overwhelmed by Scottish nationalism but about, as Pine says, "a rich man who decides to throw it all away to do something selfless."

"I mean, I pretty much wanted to do it the moment he said 'historical epic,'" Pine adds.

Pine, with his shining blue eyes and a filmography littered with blockbusters, might not be the first actor one would think of for a bloodied, mud-caked Robert the Bruce. But Mackenzie saw something of Bruce in Pine's desperate bank robber in "Hell or High Water," a performance that seemed to unlock Pine's full power as a movie star.

"There's something about both characters: people struggling, people dealing with uncertainty and not sure whether or not to act," Mackenzie says. "One thing Chris brings brilliantly to the work he does is the capacity to handle that uncertainty and a character who's working his way

through things."

After "Outlaw King" premiered to largely poor reviews in Toronto, Mackenzie cut about 20 minutes from the film, which he had rushed to ready for opening night at TIFF. The 52-year-old filmmaker co-wrote and produced the film, which follows a pair of acclaimed releases from the director — the father-son prison drama "Starred Up" and "Hell or High Water" — that likewise analyzed masculinity.

"It needs to be deconstructed, doesn't it?" Mackenzie says. "At this point in time, it feels like masculinity is coming under a lot of questions and it seems appropriate, as males, to be dealing with the subject of masculinity, try to find some nuance in there, try not to demonize or heroize."

In the 65-day shoot in Scotland, Mackenzie and Pine hoped to recapture some of the freewheeling spirit of their quicker, lower-budget production in West Texas. That Bruce was a contemporary of William Wallace has led to frequent comparisons to Mel Gibson's "Braveheart," though Pine says they were seeking to make a very different sort of Scottish epic.

"How do you make the anti-'Braveheart'? How do you make the movie that hits all the tropes of the genre without — and I say this with all due respect — being manipulative?" Pine says. "'Braveheart,' I love. But how do you make the non-movie movie?"

Pine saw Bruce "nebulous" and "opaque" — someone who could be politician and warrior, hero and coward. "You cannot pin the guy down," he says. Before departing to shake off the day's questions, Pine repeatedly mentioned Yuval Noah Harari's "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind" as a source of inspiration.

"To me, the primal aspects of the film are almost like men and women of the mud and of the dirt. It's almost like you see them in this amoebic form. The earth that we come from," says Pine. □

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	 BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH   CAMERON SEELY <b>THE GRINCH</b> [PG] MON-THU 4:40   6:40   8:40 FRI 4:40   6:40   8:40   10:40 SAT 2:40   4:40   6:40   8:40   10:40 SUN 2:40   4:40   6:40   8:40 SAT-SUN 1:45	 RAMI MALEK   LUCY BOYNTON <b>BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY</b> WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG-13] MON-FRI 8:20 SAT-SUN 3:15   8:20 MON-FRI 6:40 SAT-SUN 1:40   6:40 MON-FRI 5:40 SAT-SUN 2:50   5:40
	 ROWAN ATKINSON   OLGA KURYLENKO <b>JOHNNY ENGLISH</b> WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG] MON-SUN 3:45   5:40   7:35   9:35 STARTING NOVEMBER 15: FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD, INSTANT FAMILY	 MACKENZIE FOY   KEIRA KNIGHTLEY <b>THE NUTCRACKER</b> WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES [PG] MON-FRI 4:55 SAT-SUN 2:45   4:55
	 TIFFANY HADDISH   TIKA SUMPTER <b>NOBODY'S FOOL</b> MON-THU & SUN 7:05   9:30 FRI-SAT 7:05   9:30   11:55	

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# Doing it H.E.R. way: singer rises as focus remains on music

By MESFIN FEKADU

**NEW YORK (AP)** — When Gabi Wilson is H.E.R. — her R&B singer stage name — she is usually rocking big hair and big sunglasses, rarely showing her full face to her fans.

The point is to give the public one simple thing to focus on: the music.

But other days, her hair is pulled into a ponytail or a bun and her face is clear, like the time she was being driven in an Uber with a friend and "Best Part," her Top 5 R&B hit, came on the radio.

"I love that song 'Best Part,'" H.E.R. recalled the driver saying, adding that he was in his late '60s. "It reminds me of my wife."

"I wanted to cry," she added. "It was so special."

That anonymity proved two things for the singer: Her choice to release music without giving too much detail about her life worked, and her fanbase is not just made up of teenagers who mainly consume music through streaming — R&B purists love her, too.

Since Sony's RCA Records announced H.E.R. mysteriously in 2016, she has become a rising R&B star, achieving success on the road, on streaming services, the charts and even at awards shows.

Songs like "Best Part," "Focus" and "Losing" perfectly blend the alternative R&B sound that's popular today with the traditional R&B sound that some feel is missing from the contemporary music scene.

Her first two EPs — "H.E.R., Vol. 1" and "H.E.R., Vol. 2" — gave her an immediate fan base thanks to the songs' honest lyrics and vibey melodies, as she sang about complicated relationships and love lapses. Most people wouldn't think she just turned 21 months ago.

"The way that I released the music did exactly what I wanted it to, which was make people just listen to the music," said H.E.R., which stands for "Having Everything Revealed." "(And) just listen to the message for what it is because we tend to listen with our eyes



In this Aug. 13, 2018 photo, R&B singer Gabi Wilson, better known as H.E.R., poses for a portrait in New York.

Associated Press

sometimes. Sometimes it's all about hype, and I didn't want hype. ...I don't want people to love my music because of what I look like or who I know or whatever." "I feel like maybe some people wouldn't have accepted the music if they knew I was 19," said H.E.R., who was that age when her first EP dropped. "Some people, they make these assumptions before they even listen to the music."

"Vol. 1," her seven-song set, was named iTunes' R&B album of 2016. She earned a nomination for best new artist at the 2017 Soul Train Awards. And she opened on tour for Bryson Tiller and completed her first headlining tour.

But this year, she reached the Top 10 of the R&B charts with "Could've Been," the gold-selling "Focus" and

the platinum hit "Best Part," a duet with Daniel Caesar. She earned a whopping seven nominations at the upcoming Soul Train Awards, making her the most nominated act. And she opened on the road for Chris Brown and will launch her second headlining tour on Saturday in Atlanta. She is Apple Music's latest "Up Next" artist and ranks sixth among R&B acts on the streaming platform. Her success has been so major that a male singer has copied her likeness and released songs under the name H.I.M.

"I don't like to acknowledge it," she said of the copycat. H.E.R. grew up in the San Francisco Bay area to a black father and Filipino mother. She was originally introduced to the public as a piano prodigy at age

10, appearing on the "Today" show and covering Alicia Keys' music. She was signed to Sony at 14 and said though she wanted to release music at times — she did try with the song "Something to Prove" in 2014 under Gabi Wilson — she appreciates the time she had to develop as an artist and work on songwriting and grow as a pianist, drummer and guitar (she plays electric, acoustic and bass guitar).

Keys, who met H.E.R. over a decade ago, had similar beginnings: She was originally signed as a teenager and didn't release her first song, the No. 1 hit "Fallin'," until she was 20 in 2001.

"I was signed when I was 14 and then had been developing all the way up to the first album and probably a lot like H.E.R.," Keys said.

"You feel super anxious because you have all of this music you've been working on for years. You have your dreams and you have your wishes and of course you find yourself hoping that it's going to all work out. Sometimes you've got to sit for a minute and wait for that right moment. That's hard — that discipline is almost just as hard."

"I saw H.E.R. developing as an artist, and she really had this thing about her that was so exciting because it was such serious musicianship," added Keys. "And then fast forwarding now, X amount years later, to where she is now and seeing that all come together, I think the beauty of that is the fact that she was really able to take her time and be an artist and develop and be a young girl. Her eyes and her destiny have always been on this place and needed to land in this world. And it's only going to get brighter, bigger and better."

This year H.E.R. released her second pair of EPs, titled "I Used To Know Her" parts 1 and 2, taking on new sounds and moods in comparisons to her earlier projects. A full album is expected next year.

She's even revealing more of herself: In the music video for "Could've Been," released last week, you can even see her face.

"I think everything will be revealed in its proper time and slowly, like the developing of a polaroid — that's kind of what you see and what her reveal is," said manager Jeff Robinson, who signed both H.E.R. and Keys to his MBK Entertainment company when they were teens.

"There was never any hiding — just a concentration on the music," he added. For H.E.R., she's just happy to have connected with fans of all ages in an organic way.

"I'm so thankful that at this point, even if you see my face or know who I am, it doesn't matter, because you already love the music," she said. "You've already accepted it." □



# After long wait, 1st legal pot shops on East Coast to open

**NORTHAMPTON, Mass. (AP)** — With its youthful vibe and eclectic mix of culture, a small Massachusetts city seems a logical site for the nation's first legal recreational marijuana sales east of Colorado.

An existing medical marijuana dispensary in Northampton — nestled in Massachusetts' scenic Pioneer Valley — plans to open its doors within days to anyone 21 or older looking for products ranging from pre-rolled joints to cannabis-infused edibles, creams, lotions and cooking oils. A second store in the small town of Leicester could also open at or around the same time, while dozens of other retail applicants await final licensing approval from state regulators.

The initial openings come two full years after Massachusetts residents backed legalization, a vote hailed by a burgeoning cannabis industry eager to expand its geographic base beyond the several western U.S. states where recreational marijuana is sold.

Massachusetts is projected to see sales of at least \$1.8 billion and as high as \$5 billion annually, industry leaders predict.

But the road to legal sales has been a long and tedious one. The original target date of Jan. 1, 2018, was almost immediately pushed back six months by the Legislature. Then the July 1 date came, and went and still no stores were cleared to open. Frustra-



In this Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018 photo a humidity indicator rests in a bowl of a strain of cannabis called "Walker Kush" at New England Treatment Access medical cannabis dispensary, in Northampton, Mass.

Associated Press

tion grew among would-be businesses and consumers alike.

Officials in many communities, including some where a majority of voters had approved legal recreational marijuana, kept pot shops away through moratoriums or zoning restrictions, or by demanding a steep price from cannabis businesses in exchange for signing host community agreements.

Not Northampton, which appeared to roll out the welcome mat. While about 54 percent of all Massachusetts voters supported the 2016 referendum, 73 percent in Northampton gave their blessing, one of the widest margins anywhere in the state.

"It's already counter-culture. It's like their customers are already here," said Steve Morin, a 68-year-old retired delivery truck driver and Air Force veteran who lives in Springfield, Massachusetts. He visits Northampton frequently and described himself as an occasional marijuana user who may shop in the store when it opens.

"It will be good for tourism," he added.

The city's bustling downtown sports trendy restaurants and coffee shops, bookstores, galleries and a performing arts center. Northampton is home to Smith College, an elite liberal arts school for women and one of several colleges and universities — including the 30,000-student University of Massachusetts flagship campus — within a 10-mile radius of the city. Most undergrads, however, aren't old enough to buy marijuana legally.

New England Treatment Access, which operates the dispensary, is hoping for the distinction of being the first commercial pot shop to open east of the Mississippi.

"There exists a marketplace for marijuana right now in Massachusetts and it's our job as a regulated industry to over time displace

the current illegal, untaxed and untested industry with one that is controlled, regulated, taxed and tested," said Norton Albaraez, the company's director of government affairs.

Anticipating long lines forming when the store first opens, NETA has worked closely with police and city officials on traffic and parking issues, and retained former Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis — who became a national figure in the aftermath of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings — as a security consultant, Albaraez said.

Public safety isn't a major concern for Northampton residents like Anthony Bernardo.

"It's in plain view now so I'm happy about that," said Bernardo, a 36-year-old professional musician, as he pushed his young son in a stroller through a city park. "For years, I've been feeling that marijuana is no more of a danger to society than alcohol."

Massachusetts hopes to sidestep supply problems and other early pitfalls experienced in legal states, and most recently in Canada, where consumers endured rampant shortages after sales began last month. California, which kicked off recreational sales on Jan. 1, remains in a challenging transition period as it attempts to transform what was once a largely vast, illegal market into a multibillion-dollar, regulated economy.

Like Massachusetts, many areas of California have banned commercial pot activity. Initial tax collections have been well below projections and a shaky supply chain has customers looking at barren shelves in some shops. Washington state launched legal marijuana sales in mid-2014, shortly after Colorado, following a lengthy scramble to license growers, processors and stores, all of whom had to contest a gantlet of regulations ranging from what pesticides they could use to local zoning rules. Only four stores opened on the first day of sales, with customers waiting in long lines to pay exorbitant prices for marijuana also in short supply. □



In this Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018 photo patient service associates Savannah Stuitje, left, and Josh Hirst, right, stand at a counter that features a display of vape dispensers at New England Treatment Access medical marijuana dispensary, in Northampton, Mass.

Associated Press



In this Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2018 photo vape dispensers that could be used for legal recreational cannabis, when it becomes legally available, rest on a shelf at New England Treatment Access medical marijuana dispensary, in Northampton, Mass.

Associated Press